FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes launched a series of "successful raids" on Esfahan, Bushchr, and Kermanshah on 20 March, according to Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio announced 19 March raids against the Iranian towns of Bushehr, Hamadan, Ardabil, Garang, and Khorramabad. The communique stated that Iraqi attacks will continue "from a position of strength" until Iran accepts peace. Meanwhile, Iran shelled the Iraqi towns of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, and Sayyid Sadiq with heavy artillery, the communique stated. On the Badr operation battlefronts "intense fire" continued as Iranian troops proceeded with "mopping up" operations, Tehran radio reported.

In a separate development, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, in an interview with Tehran radio, maintained that Iraq's threats about the security of civilian airliners are "contagious" and can spread to the airspace "of all regions." The prime minister added that Iraq should count on the fact that Baghdad airport may come under attack by Iranian missiles.

GCC and the Gulf War

On his return from Baghdad the Kuwaiti foreign minister said he received a "full response" to his mission from Iraq, but noted that Iran has not sent a response that would enable a GCC delegation to visit Tehran, according to KUNA.

Reaction to Baghdad Tripartite Meeting

Following the 18 March meeting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn held with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in an interview with Jerusalem television, expressed hope that a Baghdad-Amman-Cairo Arab bloc would adopt Egypt's peace policy in principle and provide a counterweight to the "rejectionist front" Arab states. Israeli political sources contended that Mubarak's peace initiative could now win "renewed impetus" as a result of the Baghdad meeting, according to the Tel Aviv paper *HA'ARETZ*.

Lebanon

Sidon Clashes — Six people were killed and 30 others were wounded during fighting between Lebanese Army troops and the Lebanese Forces near Sidon on 18 and 19 March, Beirut radio reported. The radio noted that sporadic sniper fire continued early on 20 March. Earlier, Lebanese Forces gunmen warned more than 30,000 Sidon citizens to evacuate their homes, according to the radio.

Israeli Withdrawal — Israeli Prime Minister Peres, in comments broadcast by IDF radio, reiterated that Israel will withdraw from "almost all" of Lebanon within 2 months. Peres maintained that Israeli security can be ensured through "suitable" IDF deployment along the border and "not from Lebanon." Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, on a tour of southern Lebanon, inspected the "planned security zone," ITIM reported.

IDF Operation — A man was killed and another was wounded by IDF forces when they tried to escape during a search operation in 'Aba, Jerusalem radio announced.

Sudan

Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) units launched a successful raid into Rumbek on 15 March and destroyed enemy installations, according to the clandestine SPLA radio. The radio also reported that SPLA units raided and shelled Akobo on 16 March causing "heavy damage." In a separate development, a Sudanese military spokesman cited by SUNA stated that "outlaws" recently attacked a church in the Adong area and killed a priest.

DRA-Pakistan

The DRA Foreign Ministry denied as "groundless" Pakistani charges that DRA planes bombed the Domandai area on 7 March and the Arandu area on 12 and 13 March, Kabul radio reported.

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PLO, Jordan May Choose Joint Delegation in 2 Days

AU201131 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Paris, March 20 (AFP) — Senior Palestinian and Jordanian officials will meet sometime in the next 48 hours and will probably choose a joint delegation that would be involved in possible talks with the United States, said Kamal, a member of the Palestinia National Council (parliament) said. Mr. Kamai said the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) did not oppose the idea of talks with Washington, which was the first step in this month's Middle East peace initiative by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. But he said the PLO "insists that it be the body that designates the Palestinians within the delegation."

He also specified that the meeting would be acceptable to the PLO provided that it remained on the level of "conversations" and did not advance to "negotiations."

(Meanwhile in Cairo, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Nicholas Veliotes said after talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that the United States "is and will continue to be committed" to renewing the Middle East peace process.)

Mr. Kamal said negotiations "must, from our point of view, take place within the framework of a common Arab delegation grouping all the concerned parties, including Syria if it wants, and with participation of the permanent members" of the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Kamal made the statement to the Paris-based newspaper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* as he emerged from a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd al-Majid in Cairo.

The idea of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation was outlined in a framework agreement worked out by King Husayn of Jordan and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat released on February 11. The United States, however, has opposed PLO presence on the delegation because of what it says is the PLO's continuing refusal to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Fatah Memorandum on Jordanian-Palestinian Plan

JN200951 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Mar 85 pp 1, 20

[Sana' al-'Alul dispatch]

[Text] Amman — In its recent meetings in Tunis, the Fatah Central Committee issued a memorandum on reactions concerning the Jordanian-Palestinian joint action. The memorandum states that:

1. The Palestinian-Jordanian move is part of the joint Arab action to rally all Arab resources for the sake of providing a program of action by employing the necessary means to implement the Fes resolutions.

2. A unified Arab position must be crystallized with the aim of achieving a just solution to the Middle East problem and its central issue, the Palestine cause. This will guarantee the liberation of occupied Arab territories, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation, and an independent state on liberated territory with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within a confederal union between the Jordanian and Palestinian states, according to PNC resolutions.

3. The international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union and the United States, the rest of the permanent member states in the UN Security Council and all the concerned Arab sides, is the correct framework for negotiations and where the joint delegation delegation participates on equal footing.

4. The Fatah Central Committee affirms its rejection of unilateral or partial peace plans and any unilateral solution, including the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan, and all the direct or indirect negotiations outside the framework of the United Nations and the international conference.

5. Proceeding from its commitment to the PNC resolutions, the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and being recognized on the Arab and world levels, is the only side that has the legitimate right to talk and negotiate without delegating, authorizing, or permitting any other side to participate with it in representing the Palestinian people in all fields.

6. Within efforts to prepare the world for accepting the formula of an international conference as a framework for negotiations, the PLO is acting to open dialogues with the five UN Security Council permanent member states within the framework of the Security Council.

7. The PLO is the side responsible for mobilizing its own resources and rallying the powers of its allies and friends in order to protect and support its political move in accordance with the Rabat and Fes resolutions.

The memorandum states that these seven points represent the joint convictions of the Central Committee members for dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian joint action plan on which the PLO Executive Committee issued a statement on 18 February.

These points enjoy everyone's commitment in terms of policy and action.

From this premise, the Fatah Central Committee supports the PLO Executive Committee resolution issued on 18 February 1985 approving the Jordanian-Palestinian joint action plan, including the explanatory memorandum.

AL-YAWM Interviews PLO's Al-Surani in Cairo

GF191636 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Mar 85 pp 4, 22

[Interview with Jamal al-Surani, PLO Executive Committee secretary and official spokesman, by *AL-YAWM* correspondent Safwat Abu Talib in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Talib] What is your latest view on the controversy surrounding UN Resolution 242 in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Surani] We have accepted all UN resolutions which safeguard for us the right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

[Talib] Recently, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak called on the United States to hold a dialogue with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. What is your view on this proposal?

[Al-Surani] If President Husni Mubarak succeeds in bringing about a "dialogue" between the PLO and the United States, it will be a big achievement. We welcome that, in the presence of Jordan or any other Arab country. Our opinion is that the Arab delegation should be a joint Arab delegation and not a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Talib] By that, do you mean that Egypt should participate in the dialogue with the United States?

[Al-Surani] We welcome participation from Egypt, Syria, or any other Arab country. Our basic condition is that the United States should recognize the PLO and hold discussions with it, because events have proved that there is no peace in the region and, even with all its fleets and influence, the United States is not capable of imposing peace upon the region. The Palestinian problem must be solved in order to achieve peace in the region, and there is no solution to the Palestinian problem without the rights to return, self-determination, and the establishment of a state.

[Talib] President Mubarak has expressed readiness to host all delegations to negotiate in Cairo. Will you accept this?

[Al-Surani] In all circumstances, we say that any path that might lead us to our goals will be considered and discussed by us. We will make a positive or negative decision on it. Generally, what has been published on President Mubarak's statements concerning this issue is, in fact, not enough. Newspapers and news agencies have carried contrasting reports with regard to this subject. What is written in newspapers usually does not match the proposals that are written and directly sent to the PLO.

[Talib] Through what is published and broadcast, quoting the Palestinian leadership, the Arab citizen thinks that there is no stability and agreement on one opinion. What is your explanation?

[Al-Surani] I do not know why it is required from the Palestinian arena to have unanimity, contrary to what is happening throughout the world. In a democratic dialogue held among Palestinian brothers there can be a majority and an opposition. However, in the end we come up with an agreement to which all Palestinian forces adhere. What we always reject is a Palestinian view that is supported by a specific country. We are always eager to keep the Palestinian decision independent.

[Talib] In your estimation, what are the most prominent steps to be taken in our region?

[Al-Surani] Let me tell you quite confidently that there will be two important decisions made during the next few months. The first one will concern the ending of the Iraqi-Iranian war, which is not far away and can be achieved shortly. Do not ask me about the details. The second issue concerns taking a decision on the return of Egypt to its position in leading the Arab work. Again, do not ask me about the details. Here, I must mention what has been said about the resolutions of an Arab summit and the requirement that they should be taken by the majority or unanimously. There is no article in the Arab League Charter stating that resolutions must be taken by a majority or unanimously except on issues concerning the budget.

Jamal al-Surani stressed that the long-awaited Arab summit will be held in Riyadh and nowhere else in the very near future. During this summit, a decision will be made on the return of Egypt to the Arab League.

Concluding his interview with *AL-YAWM*, the Palestinian official said that if the United States takes a positive stance toward the PLO, we will accept the invitation in order to achieve our goals.

Al-Sa'iqah Official Calls For Anti-'Arafat Front

JN191554 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization-Al-Sa'iqah Forces, has called for establishing a broad Palestinian national salvation front to topple the course of 'Arafat and his rightist clique, which is trying to destroy the PLO, peddle U.S. solutions, and liquidate the Palestine cause. In a lecture today at the General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, Comrade al-Qadi said the front will be open to all Palestinian nationalists and strugglers and Palestinian revolution organizations and factions which reject the course of deviation and capitulation practiced by 'Arafat and his clique in the Palestinian arena.

Comrade al-Qadi called for toppling the treasonous Amman agreement and 'Arafat and his course and for adhering to the PLO Charter. He condemned the reactionary Husayn-Mubarak-Saddam alliance designed to impose imperialist hegemony over the Arab region. He stressed the need for national unity and armed struggle against the Zionist enemy in the occupied Arab territory. Comrade al-Qadi praised the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion which confronted and is confronting imperialist schemes in the Arab region.

Reportage on Anti-Israeli Resistance Operations

Al-'Asifah Claims Attack Responsibility

JN191531 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 19 Mar (SANA) — A military spokesman for Al-'Asifah Forces here today announced Al-'Asifah Forces' responsibility for the fedayeen operation carried out yesterday against two Zionist enemy vehicles on the Kafr Kanna-Tiberias road in occupied Palestine. The spokesman said that the Martyr Basim Kassab group attacked two enemy vehicles with hand grenades in the aforementioned area. The attack resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of enemy forces. The enemy

forces surrounded and combed the area in search of the fedayeen, who were able to return safely to base. The enemy radio admitted the operation, but claimed that only one of the two vehicles was damaged.

Convoy Attacked With Grenades

JN191739 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to escalate their heroic, daring operations against the occupation forces, inflicting heavy losses in personnel and equipment. A Palestinian military spokesman has stated the following:

A group of our revolutionaries in the occupied homeland attacked a Zionist military convoy on a road near Lake Tiberias in the northern part of Palestine that was occupied in 1948.

The Palestinian spokesman added that as a result of this attack, which was carried out with hand grenades and incendiary bombs, two military vehicles were destroyed and all their occupants were killed or wounded.

A spokesman for the occupation forces admitted this daring ocpration by our revolutionaries in the occupied homeland but did not disclose his losses. He claimed that this is the first time Israeli military vehicles have been exposed to such operations inside that part of Palestine occupied in 1948.

The Zionist spokesman also claimed that Zionist explosive experts succeeded in defusing two time bombs in central Tel Aviv. He said the Israeli authorities detained 130 Palestinian citizens on the pretext of interrogation.

3 Positions Attacked

JN191746 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces continue their operations against the Zionist invasion forces occupying southern Lebanon. The heroes of the joint forces attacked two enemy positions with rockets — the first in Tyre District and the second west of Al-Nabatiyah. During these attacks, the two positions received direct, effective hits and a number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

The joint forces also stormed an enemy position near the village of 'Arrub in southern Lebanon. As a result of this attack, which was carried out with automatic weapons and rockets, the enemy position was destroyed and the enemy soldiers in it were killed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted these operations, but, as usual, refrained from disclosing his losses. He said that his forces and armor cordoned off the scene of the incident, carried out a large-scale search campaign, and detained a large number of citizens on the pretext of complicity in the operations.

Voice of PLO Doubts U.S. Peace Intentions

JN191936 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1605 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, some Arab sides still believe that the U.S. Administration will come up with a positive response to their peace proposals. They even believe that Washington might adopt those proposals and work for their implementation. This is no more than wishful thinking and an attempt to create worthless delusions that will lead only to vacuum and a vicious circle.

Let us ask: How can the U.S. Administration come up with a positive response to these proposals, which clearly provide for recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate inalienable rights, if it is not confronted by real power that will make it completely change its biased stand and policy toward the Zionist enemy, and also if there is no serious threat to its interests in the region stemming from a single Arab stand and military option for which all the necessary material resources are guaranteed? Washington, which insists on its hostile stands and policy against our central issues, especially the Palestine question, is in fact affirming that it is dealing with the Arabs within the context of the conflict, not outside of it. On the other hand, the Arabs persist in dealing with Washington within a different context based on dialogue only in order to change Washington's political convictions concerning the Arab region. Some Arabs consider Washington a friend and others consider it a full partner. They thus refuse to deal with the United States within the context of the conflict.

Talk about the possibility of the United States coming up with a positive response to the Arab peace proposals is in fact very harmful, even to those who repeat it. This is because such talk will be considered an attempt by the Arab sides to salvage the decrepit U.S. credibility on this subject — a credibility which even Washington itself has done nothing about because it is impossible to change. This means that the Arab sides have fallen into the trap of despicable subservience to Washington and its policy. There can be no equal exchanges or dialogue under subservience; there will be only some talking and others deciding, and the stronger side will be deciding of course.

Our problem in the Arab region is that we do not want to utilize the many elements of Arab power in the dialogue with Washington. How long will this problem continue to weaken the Arab position? Until we overcome this problem, it is better to be frank about the U.S. stand than to try to beautify the ugly U.S. face.

Voice of PLO Comments on Peres' TV Interview

JN192022 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1553 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Speaking in a program broadcast by the U.S. ABC television network last Sunday, Peres said that he completely objects to any U.S. meeting with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He also affirmed Israel's refusal to hold any peace talks unless the

PLO changes its national charter and recognizes UN Security Council Resolution 242. Nor did Peres forget to say at the end of his interview with the U.S. television network that he completely rules out the possibility of the United States imposing any solution on Israel. He added that peace and the PLO are two contradictory things and that Israel will remain in the Middle East forever.

We cite Peres' statements for the benefit of those deluded Arabs who bet that the return of the Israeli Labor Party to power would lead to a settlement of the Palestine question. Here is the leader of the Labor Party himself announcing frankly — and even more vehemently than the Likud — that he refuses to recognize the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative: the PLO.

In fact, he wants the PLO to cancel its existence and national charter and to recognize Israel's existence so Peres could then accept some Palestinian representation in any peace talks. Thus, Peres changes logic and wants the victim to submit to the aggressor, deny its own existence, and concede all legal rights to the aggressor represented by the Zionist entity on Palestinian territory.

Although Palestinian rights are very clear and cannot be changed by all Peres' claims, certain Arab voices believe that it does us no harm to overlook certain rights so we do not lose all our rights, in the hope that the Peres government would agree to negotiate. But these Arab voices have overlooked one important fact: Negotiations reflect the balance of power on the ground and Arab power is currently scattered and dismantled by regional conflicts and personal interests. It is no secret that the Palestine question is no longer the central issue in any Arab policy, even on the informational level. This is in addition to the good intentions that the Arab regimes are showing daily toward the United States and their betting on the big U.S. role [words indistinct].

At any rate, Peres answered these people when he said that he completely rules out the possibility of the United States imposing any solution on Israel. We also say that Peres' speculations about the United States are 100 percent correct. Israel is organically linked to the United States. It is the United States' strategic base in the region. As for the Arab states that are betting on a major role for the United States, they are vying with Israel in rendering free service to the United States to prove their good intentions. Why then should the United States put pressure on Israel?

We in the PLO do not deceive ourselves by expecting the United States to play any positive role in our interest, especially when know that the bad Arab reality is in no position to impose its conditions on the United States. We would like to tell Peres that his bragging about Israel remaining forever will turn against him. Perhaps the Lebanese experience serves as a lesson for Peres and the members of his government.

The PLO will not give up its role in leading the Palestinian people's struggle, no matter how long and rough the course is. This struggle will continue until the independent Palestinian state is established. This is the logic of justice, history, and peoples who are struggling against occupation and Nazi Zionism.

OPEC Executive Council Meeting Postponed

AB180745 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] A meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Executive Council scheduled for tomorrow in the Swiss capital has been postponed. A new date has not been fixed.

Government of Algeria Cuts Price of Oil

AU191304 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Rome, March 19 (AFP) — Algeria is cutting its Sahara blend oil rate by one dollar to 29.5 dollars a barrel with effect from tomorrow, officials of the Italian ENI oil group said here today.

At the last conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on January 30, Algeria, Iran and Libya had refused to reduce their rates. "Iran carried out price cuts soon after that conference, and only Libya is holding out now," ENI officials said.

An OPEC ministerial panel, meanwhile, was scheduled to meet in Geneva today to oversee an independent audit of members' export prices and volumes.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Reports on Baghdad Visit

LD191826 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1733 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Mar (KUNA) — Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir tonight returned to Kuwait from a brief visit to Baghdad with which he was tasked by the GCC ministerial council which held its 14th ordinary session over a period of 3 days in Riyadh. On his return Shaykh Sabah said he was entrusted by the council in his capacity as chairman of the current session with the task of visiting Baghdad to consult with the brothers in Iraq about the possibility of a diplomatic move, either at Arab level or international level, to finally halt this war.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said he "received a full response from the brothers in Iraq to his mission, coupled with a true desire for ending the war and restoring stability to the neighboring Muslim countries and all the region's countries." He expressed hope that the GCC countries will succeed in their move and that their efforts will meet with success.

Replying to a question about whether there was any Iranian response that would prompt a GCC delegation to visit Tehran, Shaykh al-Sabah said: "We are still awaiting the reply of the brothers in Iran. We are prepared to play the role required within the framework dictated by duty and humanity."

Referring to the meetings of the GCC ministerial council, Shaykh al-Ahmad said the ministers reviewed the topics on the agenda and discussed the current situation in the region and the seriousness of the recent escalation of the Iraq-Iran war which is claiming innocent victims from both sides and poses a threat to the security and safety of the region, as well as to international peace and security.

He added that the council heard a report from the head of the Military Committee on military cooperation during the period following the convocation of the fifth session of the higher GCC council in Kuwait. The ministerial council approved what has been achieved in all fields. The council also studied economic and social topics and approved a document on the objectives and policies of the development plan.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the council took note of the minutes of various ministerial committee meetings and referred some of these matters back for further study and resubmission to the ministerial council during its next session. He said economic relations among the GCC members and the gas network were among the most important topics discussed.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM Urges GCC To Support Iraq

GF171603 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 Mar (WAKH) — A Kuwaiti daily Sunday condemned the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war and called on the latter to abandon its "unreasonable" conditions, which it said provoked the war in the first place. The daily *AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM* said that Iran's conditions to stop the war "are not just", adding that the continuation of this war has "overtaken the Iranian condition to end the conflict."

Iran wants to overthrow the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime, one among a number of "illogical" and inconsistant conditions "which lack any meaning of justice," the paper noted.

The daily affirmed that this war is not only effecting Iraqi acceptance of peaceful mediations to end the war saying "Tehran has closed all the doors in front of a peaceful solution to this destructive conflict, which only serves Israel and the United States."

The daily, meanwhile, called on the Gulf countries to take a more positive stance in supporting Iraq "to help it consecrate its steadfastness and strengthen it in the face the Iranian invasion."

AL-QABAS: Soviet Initiative Needed To End Gulf War

GF171519 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "The Friend"]

[Text] The thousands of Iranian corpses piled in to the east of the Tigris and on the edges of the Hawr al-Hawizah and floating on the water show the extent of the Iranian regime's disregard for the lives of its people. The lines of prisoners of war led under the Iraqi gun to the rear lines with their hands raised and their wretched expressions, show how much this regime has sacrificed the simple people to fulfill its mad dreams. These wounded and killed, these prisoners of war were until yesterday fathers, brothers, and husbands, full of life and looking to the future. No doubt Iraq has also paid a high price for the lives of its people to purge its land and to protect its borders. It is a terrible sacrifice for the sake of preserving land, freedom, and dignity.

Although the new Iranian defeat is bitter and dear, no signs have been made by Iran to indicate its readiness to accept mediation to stop this devastating bloody war, although Iraq has made many good offers. If making appeals to Iran is futile after its rulers have chosen the road of death and devastation and have decided to continue their frantic bloody campaign, which contravenes the principles of righteous Islam calling for conserving the blood of the brothers of those believing in the same book, what is very strange is the superpowers' stand on this dispute. The United States is not to blame because it has an interest in the continuation of this war, as this war serves its strategic plans and also reduces the burden of its child, Israel, in facing an experienced, strong, and capable army — the Iraqi Army, which has been always a pioneer in the battlefield of all Arab confrontations with Israel. Nor are the Western European countries to blame because they are also profiting from the plunder of the region's wealth in return for arms offered to the war parties.

Who is to blame is a friend — the Soviet Union. We are not looking here for statements or communiques but for effective action to end the dispute. The Soviet Union, which is looking forward to friendship in the Gulf region, has not made any actual

initiative to stop the dispute and has not used its weight, although it is greatly influential, particularly since this dispute is taking place near its borders.

Moscow, particularly during this period of its new leader, Gorbachev, is called on to make a strong diplomatic move to halt the bloody Gulf dispute. What is the use, then, of slogans for peace and friendship with peoples? Or has the Soviet Union forgotten its principles and begun to act in accordance with the considerations of the superpowers with their ambitions, and begun to measure things according to profit and loss in areas of influence and presence?

The Soviet initiative is urgently required now. We are confident that it will be active and efficient so that we will not be forced to reconsider the usefulness of a "friend" whose stand toward us is the same as that of "enemies."

Soviet Envoy Warns Against Interference in Region

GF191226 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Mar 85 p 1

[Sattar Jabbar report]

[Excerpt] Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, member of the Fatah Central Committee and Fatah's representative in Kuwait and the Gulf, has called for holding the adjourned Arab summit in Riyadh to discuss the dangerous Iranian escalation of war at the very time the Soviet Union has given its first warning since the beginning of the escalation.

In an interview with *AL-WATAN* yesterday, Soviet Ambassador in Kuwait Pogos Akopov said that his country will not allow any development that would lead to foreign interference in the region. He affirmed that the Soviet Union is against any penetration by any side into the territories of the another side.

Commenting on the reports which indicate that the United States endeavors to send some of its ships into the region on the pretext of watching the situation closely, Ambassador Pogos said: Washington must understand that Moscow will not permit any foreign party to exploit the current developments in the Gulf war because we are concerned about the region and its security and peace.

Assembly Sets Time Limit for Government Program

LD191829 Kuwait KUNA in English 1350 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 19 (KUNA) — Kuwait's National Assembly has agreed to give the government another month to present a four-year plan of action, despite objections by some members and calls for the program to be completed sooner.

In its first working session since being elected on February 20, the Assembly approved granting the government four more weeks before presenting its plans for the coming legislative term to the assembly for approval. During debate on the issue, five members called for the government program to be presented at the next parliamentary session, and proposed that the Assembly considers itself in session until the Cabinet presented its plans.

Members also debated the amiri speech, delivered at last week's opening session of the new parliament, and approved minutes of the meeting.

Several questions to ministers on government services were tabled, and the Assembly also looked into independent and supplementary budgets for state organizations in fiscal 1983/4, which were forwarded to the Financial Committee for review. They also agreed that new legislation proposed by members should be reviewed by the appropriate parliamentary committee.

The assembly, chaired by Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun, will meet again on Tuesday next week.

SAUDI ARABIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkey's Ozal

Visits Jubayl City, Jeddah

LD192136 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Jubayl, March 19, SPA — Visiting Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal and accompanying delegation today visited Jubayl industrial city, as part of a current visit to Saudi Arabia. He was accompanied by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Mohammad Fayez and Turkish Ambassador to the Kingdom Umut Arik.

The Turkish distinguished guest and accompanying delegation were briefed on the city's projects and industries and watched a film about the history of the city and how it was developed to become one of the big industrial cities in thekingdom. Later they toured the city's various factories and projects.

Later today Ozal and accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah in the framework of the current visit of the kingdom. They were greeted by Makkah's Governor Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and a number of officials.

Defense Minister Meets Bahraini Foreign Minister

LD191603 Riyadh SPA in English 1252 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, March 19, SPA — Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan conferred here today with Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. Muhammad is attending the GCC foreign ministers conference now in progress in Riyadh.

UAE

President Receives PDRY Foreign Minister

GF161000 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has received an oral message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, on bilateral relations in particular and the current

Arab situation in general. The message was conveyed by PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, during his meeting with the president at the president's Al-Maqam Palace in the city of Al-'Ayn.

The audience was attended by Shaykh Tahnun ibn Muhammad, the ruler's representative in the eastern region and chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company: Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the president's court; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the president's representative; and Ahmad 'Awad Shidrah, the PDRY ambassador to the UAE.

Al-Dali on Iran-Iraq War

GF171623 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 17 (WAKH) — South Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali expressed regret over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the grave escalation of the "city-war" between the two countries. Dr al-Dali called for negotiations to staunch the bloodshed and reach a peaceful settlement.

In an interview published here today with the UAE daily *AL-ITTIHAD*, Dr al-Dali said that South Yemen is exerting its utmost efforts to solve the differences between the Islamic countries, pointing to President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's latest visit to Syria, Libya and Algeria. He said the visits concentrated on consultations over recent unilateral moves negotiations with the United States and Israel. He said these moves contradict the resolutions taken by the Arab summits especially Fes.

PNC Deputy Speaker Arrives, Holds Talks

GF191240 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Hilal Ahmad Lutah, speaker of the UAE Federal National Council, today met with Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, deputy speaker of the PNC, who arrived in the country today for a visit that will last several days.

Following the meeting, Salim al-Za'nun stated that views were exchanged on the continuation of implementing the resolutions of the Arab Parliamentary Union which convened in late February in Aden, particularly with regard to our fateful issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue and the grave escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, in addition to the importance of holding an Arab summit conference in order to confront the critical conditions which the region is experiencing.

He said that he also discussed the joint cooperation between Palestinian parliamentary groups and UAE parliamentary groups in order to bring closer the views among Arab parliamentary groups, clear the atmosphere, attain solidarity, and bolster Arab joint action. He said that he apprised the speaker of the UAE Federal National Council on the plan of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian move in the Arab and the international arenas.

Delivers 'Arafat Message

GF191826 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 19 Mar (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received an oral message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and a number of new developments on the Arab arena. The message was delivered to Hamdan ibn Muhammad, UAE deputy prime minister, by PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, during their meeting here today.

In a statement after the meeting, Al-Za'nun said the message also deals with the efforts Yasir 'Arafat plans to make in his capacity as a member of the Islamic Good Office Committee to stop the Iraq-Iran war. He said he also briefed Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad on the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and its new complications.

Received by State Minister

GF201006 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this morning with Salim al-Za'num, alias Abu al-Adib, PNC deputy speaker, who is currently visiting the UAE.

Following the meeting Salim al-Za'num said that they exchanged views on a number of developments in the Arab world and in the region in light of the dangerous escalation of the Iraq-Iran war and on the need to stop this war in order to save the blood of Muslims in the two neighboring countries.

He said that he briefed the officials at the Foreign Ministry on the details of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and on the negotiations and consultations between the PLO and Jordan in preparation for presenting the Palestinian-Jordanian working plan to the forthcoming Arab summit conference.

State Minister on Efforts To End Gulf War

GF181108 Doha QNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Mar (QNA) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that sincere efforts are being exerted to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In a statement published by the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* he said that the UAE and its GCC sister countries will do their utmost to end this war. He pointed out that his country is holding contacts with the concerned sides on this issue. It is noteworthy that Rashid 'Abdallah had held intensive contacts with officials in Iran and Iraq prior to his departure for Riyadh yesterday to attend the meeting of the GCC foreign ministers.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources in Abu Dhabi told *AL-ITTIHAD* that Iraq's announcement yesterday that Iranian airspace is a war exclusion zone as of tomorrow, Tuesday, will not affect flights to and from UAE airports. The sources added in a statement published today that international airline compan-

ies flying to the UAE do not use the international paths included in the Iraqi ultimatum.

Defense Minister Receives U.S. Commander

GF201010 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid received at his office this morning Lieutenant General Robert Kingston, commander of the U.S. Central Command, and the delegation accompanying him currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to the UAE George Quincey Lumsden.

KHALEEJ TIMES: U.S. 'Insensitive' to Mideast 'Pleas'

GF151057 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 15 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Why Is the U.S. Deaf to Its Friends?"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had embarked on his just-concluded visit to Washington with high hopes of inducing the Reagan administration to give a push to his new initiative in the Middle East, but he appears to have drawn a blank. The U.S. Administration is reported to be unwilling to burn its fingers so soon after the Lebanese nationalists forced the Americans to withdraw from Beirut and abrogated the compromising troop-withdrawal agreement with the Zionist entity. Mr Mubarak has characterised the U.S. attitude as a "defeatist" one and as tantamount to a policy of inaction. But this is only part of the truth. Washington is demanding its pound of flesh before it agrees to give the Mubarak initiative any vital support.

The Egyptian formula is based on the Jordan-PLO agreement which, according to Mr Mubarak, embodies Security Council Resolution 242 as well as the Reagan plan proposing Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan. He said that the agreement was the firm commitment to peace that Washington had been waiting for, and he hoped to persuade Mr Reagan to set the ball rolling by opening a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But Mr Reagan told Mr Mubarak that the U.S. would not talk to the PLO before it "unequivocally" accepted Resolution 242, which has been repeatedly rejected by the Palestinian National Council; that the Palestinian delegation involved in the negotiations would have to include representatives from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and others "as mutually agreed upon by the parties", knowing full well that Israel has vowed never to negotiate with the PLO; and that, in any case, Washington favoured direct negoitations between the Arabs and the Zionists. In short, the Reagan administration is demanding total control over all the cards before the negotiations get under way.

No wonder that Mr Mubarak could hardly conceal his frustration at the outcome of his talks in Washington when he spoke at the National Press Club. As an Egyptian English-language daily has commented, the failure of the Mubarak formula would frustrate Arab moderates, and Mr Mubarak has himself warned that such a failure would expose the U.S., more than any other country, to "a fallout of tension and radicalism". It is difficult to understand why Washington should be so insensitive to its own interests and so deaf to the pleas of its friends in the Middle East.

KHALEEJ TIMES: 'Tough Action' Needed on Gulf War

GF181128 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 18 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Tough Action Is Needed"]

[Text] The reckless new turn taken by the Gulf war has increased anxieties throughout this region. Both Iran and Iraq seem bent upon destroying each other. The wanton bombardment of cities continues to take its toll even as thousands of soldiers die in combat in the marshes of southern Iraq. Yesterday, Iraq warned aircraft entering Iranian airspace that they shall be doing so at their own risk, and three more tankers were also reported to have been hit yesterday, including one on charter to Kuwait.

Despite the ferocity of the fighting, there was no sign of any decisive breakthrough by either side, and the stalemate that has throughout characterised the five-year-old war remained unbroken; only the gloom has deepened. The AGCC has again expressed its concern and appealed for an end to the fighting. AGCC Secretary-General 'Abdallah Bisharah has said that all nations, including the superpowers, should make an effort to stop the conflict. Kuwait has said that it will call for an urgent UN Security Council session to "contain the present grave trends in the region."

Since the recent escalation of the fighting, the Security Council has so far restricted itself to issuing a statement appealing for raids on cities and towns to stop. Iraq has announced acceptance of the appeal: Iran had said earlier that it was willing to stop bombing cities and towns provided Iraq agreed to do so also. But last evening, there was no sign that either country was seriously contemplating acting on the UN's appeal. Iraq meanwhile has underlined the need, and rightly so, of a comprehensive solution of its dispute with Iran. To help in this, Baghdad has suggested an immediate cease-fire and return of forces to internationally recognised frontiers.

More and more it is becoming evident that unless an attempt is made to tackle the issue in its entirety, we would continue to have to live with periods of relative quiescence alternating with outbursts of ferocity. If the superpowers are not interested in looking for a solution, so be it. Let us take the initiative ourselves and request the UN secretary-general to visit Baghdad and Tehran and not to move from there till he has set up talks under his own or the AGCC's auspices. Tough and urgent action is needed to prevent further bloodshed in the two Islamic countries.

PDRY

Chairman Receives Message From Iranian President

GF191926 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's

Council Presidium, received in his office today Mohammad 'Arab, Iranian assistant foreign minister, who delivered to him a written message from Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dealing with developments in the region.

Present at the meeting were Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister; Brother Ahmad Salih Hayim, director of the Asia Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador in Aden.

Chairman Affirms Nation's Support for Syria
GF191552 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, affirmed the PDRY's support of Syria and its stance against imperialist and Zionist plots and capitulatory schemes which are designed to harm Syria's steadfastness and its national and pan-Arab stances. This statement was made during Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's telephone conversation late last night with Brother Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Today's issue of the newspaper *14 OCTOBER* reported this news and said that Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also affirmed the PDRY's stance next to the Lebanese nationalist movement and the heroic struggle that is being waged by the Lebanese resistance forces in order to defeat the Zionist invaders and their agents and in order to maintain the unity of Lebanese territory and its Arabism, independence, and sovereignty.

They also reviewed recent developments in the Arab region and the frantic activities aimed at imposing capitulatory solutions and schemes that are within the framework of the U.S. designs, the Camp David accords, the Reagan plan, and the Amman agreement, the contents and dimensions of which contradict with the supreme national interests of the Arab peoples, foremost of which the issue of the Arab Palestinian people.

The paper also pointed out that during the telephone conversation, the importance of speeding up the convocation of the summit conference of the steadfastness and confrontation front and the importance of bolstering effective solidarity against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaryism was asserted.

Yahya Leads Delegation on Visit to Syria
GF191538 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister; and Dr Mutlaq 'Abdallah Hasan, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, left Aden for Syria today to attend consultations with brethren in the steadfastness and confrontation front.

In a statement to ANA, Anis Hasan Yahya said that this visit is a continuation of the consultations which Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, began with the leaders of the steadfastness and confrontation front, and that this visit is significant in light of the developments which the Arab region is witnessing. He said: We in the PDRY give great importance to the resumption of the dialogue with the steadfastness and confrontation front in order to confront the schemes that are being promoted by international imperialism.

The delegation was seen off by Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee.

Algerian Official Concludes Visit to Aden
GF191420 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Brother Bachir Khaldoun, member of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee, left Aden this morning after participating in the meetings of the Arab People's Conference.

In a predeparture statement to ANA, Brother Khaldoun stated he signed a protocol for 1985-86 on the exchange of delegations to enhance the promotion of PDRY-Algerian relations and to provide for cultural and information exchange. In this regard, he expressed his comradely greetings to the PDRY party leaders, led by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Brother Khaldoun emphasized that there are imperialist forces escalating their alliance against the progressive nationalist movements. He also asserted that all progressive forces in the Arab homeland should adopt an effective means to revive the steadfastness and confrontation front and improve its methods of action by establishing a responsible Arab front able to put forth an alternative to the Amman accord.

Talks With GDR Officials Begin in Aden 19 Mar
GF191818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Yemeni-GDR talks began at the YSP Central Committee Secretariat today. The Yemeni side was chaired by Mahmud al-Najashi, member and deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee. The GDR side was chaired by Comrade Krenz, deputy secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

During the first session, they exchanged views on developments in the Arab and international situations and discussed issues dealing with the development of bilateral relations. Both sides expressed similar views.

The Yemeni side expressed extreme satisfaction for the aid being provided to the PDRY by the GDR Government and people and affirmed our country's desire to develop relations with the GDR

and other socialist countries. The GDR side praised the great successes and accomplishments that have been achieved by the PDRY people under the YSP's leadership in all fields.

The talks were attended by Brother 'Abd al-Wasim al-Shururi, PDRY ambassador to the GDR; a number of officials at the Central Committees and the Foreign Ministries of the two countries; and GDR Ambassador in Aden Guenther Neumann.

Delegation Leaves for WPC Meetings in Moscow

GF191516 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Peoples, left Aden for Moscow this morning to attend the meetings of the Presidium of the World Peace Council which will be held from 22 to 25 March. The delegation is led by Brother Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamri, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Peoples.

Yemeni Clandestine on Soviet Schemes in Red Sea

GF200620 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Sons of Yemeni South in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "The Dangerous Role Played by the Ruling Regime in Aden in Service of the USSR at the Expense of the Arab Future"]

[Excerpts] If Iran has aimed at threatening the security and stability of the Gulf countries on the regional and international levels — regionally by spreading fatal flames to the territories of the Gulf countries, and internationally by exposing international trade with the Gulf to the danger of fire and destruction — then the Arab response has been greater than Iran had expected.

The Arab response has been within the framework of intensive GCC meetings to unify the air defense network of the Arab Gulf countries vis-a-vis the mutual danger posed by tyrannical Iranian aggression. It has also achieved a strategy which provides the greatest amount of military coordination among the GCC countries in the event of an Iranian aggression against one of the GCC countries, and the establishment of a unified air defense system command, for which Saudi Arabia will be responsible by virtue of kinship and mutual interest and destiny, and in confrontation of the same mutual danger, namely, Khomeyni's Iran.

The most important decisions arrived at by the Arab Gulf countries are those adopted to escape the bottleneck, that is the Strait of Hormuz, so that this strait will not become a sword hanging over the necks of the Arab Gulf countries, and in order to avert the strategic threats with which Khomeyni's Iran is playing on the table of bloody destruction.

However, there are other dangers which must not be discounted. Among the most important of these dangers is Bab al-Mandab which controls international shipping through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. It is no secret that the Bab al-Mandab Strait has come under the actual control of Soviet military power, which exists under the flag of the ruling regime in Aden, and which is allied with the ruling regime in Ethiopia.

It is also no secret that the USSR has established strong military bases, surrounded by solid defense fortifications on the territory of the Arab islands in the southern part of the Red Sea, which face the Arab coast in southern Yemen and the western coast in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

While it can be said that the USSR at present is not in need of Arab oil and has no designs on it -- the USSR evidently has plenty of oil from its national resources -- it is not certain that these resources will last for more than another decade. International sources point out that the USSR will turn from being an oil-producing country to an oil-importing one in the 1990's. Thus the USSR must base its future calculations on the fact that its fingers must be near to the sources of Arab oil and the security of the Arab region with its huge reserves. Even if we do not accept the truth of these reports, there is another important truth, namely that the Bab al-Mandab region constitutes a special strategic position since it controls one of the most important international waterways. This means that military control adds a strategic weight to what the USSR aspires to, namely, having a strong presence in the warm seas.

In all this, the ruling regime in Aden gives full support to the USSR to control Bab al-Mandab militarily, both by the bases established on the Red Sea islands and through military presence on the soil of southern Yemen. From this point the coming danger requires a special confrontation within the framework of calculations that take into account the suspect intentions of the USSR and the suspicious role which is played by the ruling regime in Aden. Here, events present a prognosis for the future, so that an emergence from the dangers of the Hormuz Strait will not lead to falling into the trap of Bab al-Mandab.

YAR

Algerian FLN Delegation Arrives in Sanaa

GF191930 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] An Algerian FLN [National Liberation Front] delegation led by Brother Bachir Khaldoun, member of the FLN Standing Committee Secretariat and member of the FLN Central Committee, who is also responsible for culture and arts, has arrived in Sanaa on an official visit to our country. During the visit the delegation will meet a number of officials of the Standing Committee and the General People's Congress.

The visit by the Algerian official comes within the framework of repeated meetings between the General People's Congress and the FLN in order to coordinate, cooperate, and exchange views on Arab and Islamic issues of mutual concern. He was received by Brother 'Abd al-Salam al-'Ansi, assistant at the Secretariat of the Standing Committee; and Mohamed Sabbagh, Algerian ambassador in Sanaa.

Mubarak Congratulates Gorbachev on Election
NC192016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 19 Mar 85

["Text" of congratulatory cable sent by President Husni Mubarak to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee — date of cable not given]

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — It gives me great pleasure, on the occasion of your election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to send to Your Excellency my sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the precious confidence that the friendly Soviet people have bestowed upon you. I would like to express to you sincerest wishes for success in your lofty task of serving your people and the issues of international peace and security. I am certain that relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our people will grow and develop further. With my highest esteem and appreciation.

'Abd Al-Majid Briefs PLO's Kamal on Mubarak's Talks
NC191338 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met today with PNC member Sa'id Kamal. Kamal told our correspondent that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid explained the results of President Husni Mubarak's talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He added that he will brief PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of these discussions.

Sa'id Kamal said: In light of the outcome of President Mubarak's talks in Jordan and Iraq, the time has come for the level of relations between the PLO on the one hand, and President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government on the other, to rise to the level of coordination. This will allow us to continue our efforts toward true Arab solidarity. He added that today's meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid was of special importance given president Mubarak's concerted efforts over the past few days. He noted that the Egyptian foreign minister described Iraq's position in the war with Iran as sound.

'Ali Leaves on Official Visit to Romania
NC200907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali left Cairo for Bucharest this morning on an official visit to Romania. His accompanying delegation includes: Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab; 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and Engineer Hasan Sidqi, minister of housing and utilities.

The prime minister is carrying a message from President Mubarak to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The message deals with developments in the Middle East. He will also hold talks with Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu and senior Romanian officials on peace efforts in the region and on the outcome of President Mubarak's recent tour. The talks conducted by 'Ali and his accompanying delegation will also touch on ways of bolstering economic and trade cooperation, with special emphasis on commercial exchange and joint projects.

NDP Official Leaves For Visit To USSR
NC191518 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — NDP Assistant Secretary General Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi left Cairo this afternoon for a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union.

GDR Deputy Minister Arrives for 5-Day Visit
NC191215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — Erich Haak, GDR deputy minister for the construction industry, arrived here today for a 5-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, the GDR official will meet with Engineer Hasan Sidqi, minister of housing and utilities, and Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade. Erich Haak will visit the Cairo International Fair and Port Said. He will also meet with Faruq al-Baqari, the official responsible for the fair.

Niger Justice Minister Arrives in Cairo
NC191116 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — Niger Justice Minister Elhadji Allele Habibou arrived in Cairo this morning with a message from the Niger leader to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The Niger minister was received at Cairo Airport by Presidential Office Secretary Ra'uf 'Abidin.

Study on Al-'Aqabah-Alexandria Oil Pipeline
NC200825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Upon request from the Jordanian Government, the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is currently studying the establishment of a pipeline to carry Iraqi oil from the Jordanian port of Al-'Aqabah to Alexandria. According to today's *AL-AHRAM*, the studies involve a 450 km long pipeline that would begin at Al-Nuwaybi' on the Gulf of Aqaba, cross the southern Sinai to Ra's Masallah on the Gulf of Suez, and end in Al-Sukhnah, which is already connected to Alexandria via the Sumed pipeline.

AL-AHRAM says that 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has directed the ministry's consultant to follow up the studies concerning this pipeline which will help transfer Iraq's oil from the Gulf of Aqaba through Sinai to the Gulf of Suez and then to Alexandria.

Jordan and Iraq had agreed to build a 900-km pipeline to transport each day 1 million barrel of Iraqi oil from Al-Hadithah to Al-'Aqabah. The estimated cost is about $970 million, which the U.S. import and export bank has tentatively agreed to finance. A U.S. engineering firm has already designed this pipeline.

Cairo Criticizes Opponents of Baghdad Summit

NC192242 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Issues of Arab Fate Cannot Be Handled by Cheap Slogans"]

[Text] It grieves every Arab to know that certain Arab circles are portraying the Baghdad summit as an attempt to contain the Arab tide and to deviate from pan-Arabism, and that this meeting was within the framework of imperialist schemes. If it were not for the fact that the Arab situation is very critical and does not tolerate jokes, these portrayals would not even deserve our attention. Critical times in the Arab world, however, sometimes dictate that we pause and whisper in the ears of those who make such statements.

The tragedy of the Arab nation does not tolerate such silliness. The Baghdad meeting between Presidents Mubarak, Saddam, and King Husayn was a genuine Arab meeting which was inevitable. The meeting was inevitable because the Iraqi people are in dire need of a compassionate and gallant Arab gesture to support them, to listen to them, and to make them feel that all is well with the Arab nation and that the Arabs, despite severed relations among states, are closer to the Iraqi people than those who brag about Arabism, struggle, and revolution.

Is it revolutionary for a brother to let his brother down when fighting flares up? Is it revolutionary when certain Arabs support their brother's enemy? Egyptian political leaders have assessed that events throughout the Arab nation are catastrophic. Thus, it was inevitable for Egypt to take action regarding the Palestinian issue and the Gulf war. Egypt has studied the Arab dossier in light of the following facts:

1. The departure of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its deployment far away from the confrontation lines with Israel;
2. The bloody conflict within the PLO through incitment from certain Arab forces, whose conscience dictates to fire at the Palestinians just because they have not accepted any foreign domination of independent Palestinian decisionmaking;
3. The increase in Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territory — over 60 percent of the land — together with an increase in Zionist terrorism, the goal of which is to force the Arab population to leave the land even if this would mean killing anyone who refuses to leave;
4. The continued complications in the Lebanese crisis on the domestic and Israeli levels and the infiltration of Iranian terrorists into Lebanon to implement terrorist plans to obstruct any positive efforts in the interest of the Lebanese people.

In view of all these developments, Cairo has had to make moves quickly so that Arab rights will not be forfeited. It is regrettable that certain Arab circles have attacked Egypt's moves, Mubarak's visit to Iraq, and the tripartite summit in Baghdad. We know that their nervousness and presumption are due to the fact that every Egyptian effort toward Arab coordination would completely expose their schemes, the goal of which is to turn the issues of Arab struggle into a gambling card for cheap gains at the expense of Arab rights. Cairo, however, will absolutely not be stopped by their outcries, nor will their empty slogans receive any attention, because the issue that deserves care and attention is the issue of the Arab fate. This issue is too difficult for political novices and sloganeers, who have let down Iraq, who have opened fire on the sons of Palestine in Tripoli, and who have made terrorism their creed.

AL-AHRAM Examines Mubarak's Talks in Washington

PM191623 Cairo AL-AHARAM International Edition in Arabic 17 Mar 85 p 7

[From the "Significance of Events" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "If This Opportunity Is Missed"]

[Excerpts] Even the most optimistic observer did not expect President Mubarak's talks in Washington to produce immediate results or complete identity of views on the ideas Egypt put forward regarding the recent peace moves and initiatives in the Middle East. It was obvious, despite all the encouraging words and support that flowed from Washington following the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and the alternative ideas that Egypt suggested, that the U.S. Administration has adopted stands that will be difficult to persuade it to abandon. Nor is it simple to make it change the policies it is pursuing.

The most pessimistic observer, for the same reason, believes that there was absolutely no justification for launching a new attempt with the U.S. Administration, particularly since it comes following a visit by the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, toward which the U.S. Administration adopted the same attitude and the same tactic. Washington preferred to focus on matters of bilateral interests and regional fears and to relegate to low priority the efforts to settle the Palestinian problem on the grounds that it is a premature matter that requires more time and waiting.

These two views have in one way or another been reflected in the interpretations and reactions that sought to appraise the outcome of the Egyptian talks in Washington. Yet the pessimistic view predominated since the first hours of the talks. In fact the talks were preceded by a large-scale campaign to cast doubts on the usefulness of the ideas and proposals Mubarak would be taking with him and on the credibility of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and even the sincerity of the Palestinians and their adherence to the agreement. In fact the campaign went even further than that and many Arab trumpets reiterated the campaign allegations — that the whole matter is no more than an Egyptian campaign to obtain more U.S. economic and military aid and to confirm Egypt's qualifications to receive such aid.

But the true evaluation of the outocome of the talks was contained in President Mubarak's clear and precise words in his address at the Press Club in Washington. He said that there is a strong trend in the U.S. Administration recommending that the United States should adopt a wait-and-see attitude toward recent events so as to see how matters develop. Summing up his analysis or appraisal of the U.S. attitude he said that the proponents of this idea are in fact asking the U.S. Administration to remain inactive and at a political standstill. The president criticized this line saying that it is a defeatist approach based on wrong principles in the U.S. policy.

It is therefore clear from this approach, which applies unrealistic criteria to the situation in the area, that the U.S. Administration does not see in the Jordanian-Palestinian accord the golden opportunity that Egypt sees in it, and that it is not showing great enthusiasm for any role at present, not even that of encouraging the peace process. Most probably all that the U.S. Administration promised was to look into how benefit can be derived from the new situation and to try to exploit this opportunity without committing itself to any of the ideas and proposals put forward by the Egyptian side, including the holding of contacts or talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Yet the U.S. Administration left the door open to whatever may result from the contacts the Jordanian Foreign Minister may hold in Washington in the coming days. In this case King Husayn's proposed visit to the United States is not expected to take place unless the Jordanian Minister's talks led to some promising results.

However the real problem — which is primarily a U.S. problem — is that the exploitation of this opportunity in the U.S. style often leads to missing it. The U.S. policy had earlier missed a similar opportunity when it put forward President Reagan's initiative and failed to implement it by refraining from holding a direct dialogue with the Palestinians.

This was probably what President Mubarak meant when he warned Washington against missing this opportunity for which Jordan and the PLO together with Egypt have exerted great efforts to create and prepare for in the past 2 years. He said that this would lead to a severe setback for the atmosphere of expectations and hope that prevails in the area and would cause wide repercussions of violence and counterviolence.

In fact the success and bravery of Lebanese resistance has become a real challenge for the Palestinian resistance. The Arab public opinion now wonders: What happens if the Palestinian resistance follows the Lebanese resistance's example and is able to mobilize the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to carry out suicide operations against the Israeli forces in the occupied territories? The failure of the political efforts 'Arafat and his colleagues have opted to carry out within the framework of the recent agreement with Jordan, despite the pressures and many counteractions, will open the door to more violent moves.

These moves will do away with whatever is left of rational thinking toward a peaceful settlement, which could lead to the collapse of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, weakening the Jordanian position, and also lead to the dominance of the pro-Syrian dissident front over the PLO affairs. In other words, the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will generate violent reactions that might cause radical changes in the political map of the area, particularly in the ranks of the political powers in the Arab world that still believe in the usefulness of the U.S. role in creating peace in the Middle East.

The situation, as it stands, invites neither optimism nor pessimism, but calls for substantial objective followup efforts and continuous contacts and moves. The Palestinian leadership so far has adopted a wait-and-see attitude. It behooves the Arab parties, that have hastened to condemn everything, to wait and see what attitude those directly concerned with the case decide to adopt. They would wait to see what might happen in the coming days which are a critical period for testing the peace efforts by any standards.

MAYU on Results of Mubarak's U.S. Visit

PM201005 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 18 Mar 85 p 16

[Ibrahim Nafi' article: "Clearly"]

[Text] Anyone who thinks that the fates of nations can be tackled on the basis of figures and profit and loss logic is mistaken. Accordingly, it is wrong to judge the success or failure of any of the president's rounds of talks abroad on the basis of figures or the specifics of what it has or has not achieved.

President Mubarak went to Washington out of a sincere desire to revive peace efforts and to urge the United States to play its part as partner in the peace process, especially after the recent important development affecting the cause — the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. In Washington Mubarak addressed the American mind, underscoring the dangers that would threaten the region if the present state of affairs continued. He was not exaggerating when he said that a continuation of the present situation and delay in exerting efforts to establish peace and restore Arab rights would lead to the emergence of a new terrorist trend that would permanently turn the region into an area of erupting and subsiding volcanoes. That would not be strange because the causes of the troubles and disturbances are deep-rooted and can only be eliminated through a just solution that would give the land back to its owners and establish peace for all.

Egypt voiced the opinion that an important move was necessary, and that such a move should begin with a dialogue between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. That would be a necessary beginning to sow the seeds of confidence between the Palestinians as advocates of right and justice, and the Americans as partners in the peace process. After that the parties directly involved in the peace cause could hold negotiations in Cairo or anywhere else.

No one has claimed that it would be an easy thing to do or that the road would be covered with roses, but we must always work hard and sweat to convince others of what we believe to be in the interest of just peace.

The Israeli side believes that its interests are served by the continuation of the present situation and that any move toward peace would result in the recovery of territory it is unwilling to give up and in self-determination for people whom it wants to remain as now without identity, homeland, or flag.

Although the American side listened very attentively to what President Mubarak had to say and promised to study his proposals seriously and make an effort to benefit from them, the U.S. position, in President Mubarak's words, marked a retreat from a previous U.S. position. The United States believes that peace is the responsibility of the parties directly concerned, and that the U.S. role in it is not major, but "secondary." The U.S. side now pursues a "wait-and-see" policy on the issue of peace in the Middle East, despite the inherent danger and in the continuation of the unfair situation in the region.

Egypt insists on movement toward peace and has warned of the risks involved in perpetuating the present situation and in missing the present historic opportunities for peace opened by the conclusion of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

The critics of Arab politics have always complained that they have a history of missed opportunities in the Arab-Israeli conflict, opportunities the Arabs failed to take avantage of to settle the conflict. There is much truth in that, but now it is our turn to warn the American side against the policy of lost opportunities which, if seized and taken advantage of, could lead to just peace and stability and, if missed, could lead the region to more trouble, tension, and terrorism.

The German philisopher Schiller once said: "What one refuses in a minute no enternity will return."

That proverb applied correctly to the Arab side on many occasions throughout the Arab-Israeli conflict. For more than 2 years President Mubarak has been stressing the need for a move on our part to restore peace and regain territory because time is not on our side. Contrary to what others believe, time is on Israel's side.

Is it now our turn to lament the other side's policy of missed opportunities?

The loss of this historic opportunity would only complicate the possibility of a settlement. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has produced significant changes which should not be ignored, because it means that for the first time there is a real Palestinian recognition of all the UN resolutions on the issue and constitutes a clear acceptance of the principle of negotiations as a practical way of finding a settlement of the Palestinian question. Missing this opportunity would seriously jeopardize stability in the region as well as U.S. interests and the interests of U.S. Western allies and Japan in the region. It would exacerbate the present situation and thus create new trends of terrorism and extremism, and perhaps encourage terrorist operations against Western interests in the area.

As for Israel, the perpetuation of the present situation would only mean a continuation of the conflict and of troubles and disturbances. It would only strengthen the views of the extremists in the Arab world now that most of the Arab states and the PLO have accepted the principle of negotiation to settle the conflict. Is that what Israel wants and what the United States supports?

UKTUBAR on Outcome of Mubarak's U.S. Visit

PM191337 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 17 Mar 85 p 9

[Salah Muntasir Article: "Quick Observations From a Distance"]

[Excerpts] Did anyone imagine that U.S. President Reagan would come out of his White House meeting with President Mubarak to announce his full approval of Mubarak's ideas and his consent for the United States to immediately initiate a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as Mubarak proposed?

It would be politically naive to simplify the results of the talks to that extent or to imagine that such a thing would happen, particularly when the issue in question is extremely complex with many parties, many aspects, and many views involved. The ideas taken by Mubarak to Washington are not the kind of ideas that the parties would discuss and then record at the end of the meeting with specific grades, like teachers grading examination papers.

Such ideas call for long and sustained dialogue, frequently extending beyond the few hours of negotiating sessions, especially in a state which has its own way of decisionmaking and its own institutions which participate in that process, in a state with a firm stand, which it has so far not abandoned, on the question of prior PLO recognition of Israel and the need for direct negotiations between Israel and any side interested in establishing peace with it.

It can be said from afar, here in Cairo, that it is clear from the speeches exchanged by Reagan and Mubarak at the White House, from what was said during the meetings, and from reading between the lines, that the U.S. Administration received the ideas proposed by Husni Mubarak, particularly on the question of initiating a U.S.-Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, with an open mind. However, it was natural that the U.S. Administration would have many questions, such as how to start such a dialogue, in what manner, on what topics, who would participate, with what objectives, what would be the next step, and whether this was a rigid, inflexible proposal or a flexible one with room for alternatives.

A careful study from a distance of what Reagan and Husni Mubarak said would lead one to discern the following results of Mubarak's visit and his political talks in Washington:

1. The U.S.-Egyptian talks were not confined to a discussion of President Mubarak's call for a U.S.-Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. They went beyond that and included a discussion of alternatives which could achieve the objectives of such a dialogue.

2. Future talks will be held to complete discussion of these alternatives in the coming weeks, and joint efforts are expected within weeks toward that end.

3. These contacts will mainly concentrate on bridging the gap between the attitudes of the various parties.

4. The task is not easy, but the tunnel is not pitch black, as claimed by those who participated in exerting pressure in the opposite direction

That only leaves the following two quick observations:

1. That Husni Mubarak has bravely and sincerely tried to defend the Palestinian cause, with all the responsibility of a ruler, in his discussions with the U.S. leadership, Congressmen, commercial and economic representatives, media, and public opinion. It should be remembered that he is the head of the only state which has regained its territory occupied in 1967.

2. That in the face of the severest pressure, Mubarak did not retreat one inch from the pledges he made to his people and nation on peace and Israel, maintaining that "the Egyptian

ambassador's return to Tel Aviv depends on progress on three fronts — Tabah, complete withdrawal from Lebanon, and reactivation of the Palestinian issue."

What Mubarak said in Cairo he repeated in Washington to everyone he met, including the leaders of the Jewish organizations. He did not change a single word and did not take a single step backward.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Army Commanders Cable Saddam

JN191249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1132 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — Iraq's military commanders have asserted that their forces will always be prepared to crush any Iranian aggression and to defend Iraqi territory and waters from a position of strength. This came in cables of congratulations they addressed to President Saddam Husayn on the Iraqi Armed Forces' sweeping victories over the Iranian forces in Hawr al-Hawizah. Popular Army Commander Taha Yasin Ramadan said: The fighters of this Army will remain at the side of their comrades in the Armed Forces, repulsing all forms of aggression and plotting, and will always be prompt in implementing their national and pan-Arab duties and tasks.

Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, commander of the East Tigris operations, said that the Iraqi forces succeeded in smashing and burying the Iranian aggression. He said that the Iraqi fighters fiercely fought to defend their rights and achieved a great victory in one of the greatest battles, as (?admitted) by the Iranian assistant chief of staff.

Staff Major General Nizar 'Abd al-Karim Faysal, commander of the I Army Corps, said that his forces will remain prepared to destroy any Iranian force that attempts to desecrate Iraqi soil. He added that the Iranian forces in all sectors are able to repulse any Iranian aggression at any time and everywhere. The commander asserted that the I Army Corp fighters made the enemy taste bitter humiliation and pounced on its forces that entered Hawr al-Hawizah with evil, expansionist designs.

The military intelligence commander said that the Iraqi forces broke the necks of the aggressors, turned their spite against them, and transformed their remnants into ashes.

The II Army Corps commander said that the Iraqi forces recorded epics of glory by defeating the enemy, surrounding it, and pouncing on it from all sides. He added that the Iranian rulers must realize that they will have to pay a high price for any aggression on Iraq.

Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, III Army Corps commander, said that the Iraqi soldiers disappointed the Iranian rulers, dissipated their dreams, and buried their remnants.

Addressing President Saddam Husayn, Maj Gen 'Abd al-Rashid said: The III Army Corps men, who are full of zeal, determination, and enthusiasm, are ready to bury any Iranian aggression to Iraq and to proceed eastward to extinguish the Persian fires for ever.

Staff Major General Shawkat Ahmad 'Ata, commander of the Shatt al-'Arab operations, said that his forces participated in pouncing on the enemy forces, crushing, and destroying them. We affirmed that the aggressors were thrown away like heaps of garbage [words indistinct]. Staff Brigadier General Pilot Al-Hakam Hasan 'Ali, director of the Army's Air Force, said that the helicopter pilots protected Iraq with their chests and were a bridge to victory.

Staff Major General Tali' Khalil al-Duri, commander of the presidential guard division, said that his division was able to crush the enemy which attempted to desecrate Iraqi soil. He added that the bodies of the Iranian troops and their weapons were left on the battlefield, affirming that his division will remain the right arm of Iraqi attacks in order to crush the aggressors and end the war.

Communique No 1,776

JN191737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,776 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While we are celebrating the feast of victory and Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah week, our Armed Forces renew their pledge to their unique leader, President Saddam Husayn, and to the great Iraqi people to continue their heroic defense of the homeland. They will inflict on the aggressors that the Iranian rulers push into the battle to commit aggression against our people the heaviest losses until they desist from their aggression and acknowledge the course of justice and peace.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In implementation of our unchanging course to destroy selected targets inside Iran until the Iranian rulers desist from attacking our territory and cities, renounce the policy of aggression, and agree to end the war completely, our Air Force planes carried out raids on selected targets in the Iranian cities of Bushehr, Hamadan, Ardabil, Garang, and Khorramabad at 1000 [0700 GMT] today. After accurately pounding their targets, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

We warn the Iranian rulers from a position of strength that they realize full well — a position which was confirmed by the recent East Tigris battles — that we will continue to hammer their heads until they accept peace or butt their heads against the wall. Success comes from God.

2. Our Air Force planes continued to pursue the retreating enemy remnants inside Iranian territory. The hawks of the air carried out 43 combat missions today, inflicting heavy losses on military hardware and troop concentrations. All our planes returned safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

3. Our helicopter gunships continued to pursue the retreating enemy remnants in the East Tigris operational sector, dealing them painful and destructive blows.

They destroyed 17 boats, 1 tubular launcher, and 2 medium-caliber machine guns; killed or wounded large numbers of enemy troops; and destroyed 1 enemy hideout whose occupants were killed. Our helicopter gunships returned safe and triumphant after accomplishing 58 combat sorties.

4. A force of one of our forward units in the east of Basra operational sector stepped beyond its positions and captured two medium-caliber machine guns, two launchers, one boat, and large quantities of military hardware of various types. In another area of the same sector, one of our forwad units killed four enemy troops and destroyed two hardware stockpiles and one infantry position.

5. An enemy force, using three boats, tried to approach one of our forward units positions in the Maysan sector. Our hero fighters, using all types of weapons, confronted the enemy force, killing 35 enemy troops and destroying the boats.

6. Six enemy observation posts were destroyed in the Central sector of the battlefield.

7. The criminal enemy shelled Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, and Sayyid Sadiq environs with heavy artillery today.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1985

Spokesman on Iranian Losses

JN191912 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1825 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In pursuance of Communique No 1,775 issued yesterday, 18 March 1985, we would like to remind the world at large and the Iranian people who are afflicted with their rulers that we have always warned the criminal Iranian regime against the consequences of committing aggression against Iraq. We have always called on these killers to fear God when they deal with their people and we have always repeated that the Iranian people have no interest in committing aggression against Iraq, a Muslim country which is seeking good for itself and for mankind.

Proceeding from well known facts, we have stressed that the Iranian rulers are incapable of attaining their evil designs on our land. However, they insisted on proceeding along the wrong course, failed to overcome their grudges, and did not succeed in ignoring the whispers of Zionism and those who claim to be Arabs. Thus, they tried their frustrated luck once again by entering Hawr al-Hawizah in a battle whose results were known beforehand in view of Iraq's superior high command and field commands and in view of the men's morale, the weapons Iraq possesses, and the impregnability of its domestic front, not to mention that Iraq is defending its land and right, trusting in God who is the best succorer.

The battle lasted 7 days and nights during which Iraq's men excelled and offered examples of courage and dexterity that can be duplicated only by God. Thus the battle was crowned with decisive victory and the extermination of very large numbers of the attacking force which the enemy had pushed into the battle — 6 divisions of charlatan Khomeyni Guards, 11 independent brigades, Revolution Guards, and 4 regular forces brigades. The total number of the attacking force reached some 11 divisions.

We announced that the enemy's confirmed losses in the East Tigris battle alone are the following: 1) 7,120 killed opposite the front of the hero presidential guard division; 2) 3,542 killed opposite the front of the hero 5th Division; 3) 7,000 killed opposite the front of the hero 6th Division; 4) 1,148 killed opposite the front of the hero 4th division; 5) 740 killed opposite the front of the hero 35th division; 6) 3,650 opposite the front of the command defending steadfast Basra. Thus confirmed enemy losses west of Al-Hawr alone amount to 23,200 killed, excluding the numbers which are still floating in Al-Hawr waters, and the very heavy enemy losses behind its lines and in its mobilization areas which were sustained as a result of thousand of destructive sorties by our valiant hawks and also as a result of our shelling of enemy troop concentrations and supply routes. Twice this number in wounded must be added to all this. Let this be a lesson to the criminal Khomeyniites and to all those who try to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security. It is God who grants success and victory.

[Dated] 19 March 1985

'Combing Operations' Detailed

JN200816 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA) — Press reports here today said that the situation in Hawr al-Hawizah is now stable under the Iraqi forces' control after the Iranian forces that occupied Iraqi territory in that area were destroyed. The newspaper *AL-QADISIYAH*, published by the Iraqi Defense Ministry, said that the Iraqi forces are combing every inch of Hawr al-Hawizah, the dry land, and the papyrus [al-bardi] forests. The paper said that many wounded Iranian soldiers were picked up during the large-scale combing operations to purge the Al-Hawizah marshes and pursue the defeated remnants of Iranian forces. The paper's mission said that it saw the Iraqi artillery shelling the Iranian forces' rear lines and closing them before the fleeting troops.

The *AL-THAWRAH* newspaper mission says that the Iraqi fighters continued to fortify their positions and strengthen their fortifications across Hawr al-Hawizah yesterday. At the same time, the Iraqi fire continued in the direction of the border positions where the fleeing Iranian forces headed after their defeat. The Iraqi artillery and Air Force are effectively pursuing these remnants and striking them in rear positions. The mission said that large numbers of Iranian corpses were found during mop-up operations, adding that the Iraqi forces' engineering units are exerting great efforts in transferring their massive spoils, such as vehicles, engineering equipment, and huge piles of hardware and weapons.

The mission noted that the Iraqi forces are burying piles of Iranian corpses that were left on the battlefield after the Iranian retreat. It said that the Iraqi fighters have started using power boats and other vessels that were left by the Iranians in order to move deep into the marshes, complete the combing operations, and monitor possible Iranian movements.

3 Iranian Cities Raided

JN200720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0706 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Lest the Iranian rulers think that aggression against the Iraqi cities may go without punishment and that their insistence on continuing the war may continue without them being forced to pay a high price, our Air Force planes at 0830 [0530 GMT] launched a series of successful raids on selected targets in the cities of Esfahan, Bushehr, and Kermanshah. After accurately pounding their targets, our planes returned safely to base, by God's will. We will continue to hammer the heads of the Khomeyniites until they desist from their aggression. Success comes from God.

[Dated] 20 March 1985

Commanders Comment on Fighting

JN201103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0836 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA) — Iraqi military commanders have asserted that the Iranian forces were completely wiped out in the Hawr al-Hawizah battles. In press statements issued today, the commanders said that since yesterday the Iraqi forces have been conducting a combing operation of the Hawr al-Hawizah marshes, dry land, and the papyrus forest.

Staff Major General Tali' Khalil al-Duri, commander of the presidential guard forces, said that the Iraqi forces' quick movement last Sunday absorbed the enemy momentum toward the dry land after it crossed the Al-Hawizah marshes in dinghies. He added that the right wing of the Iranian forces between Al-Sakhrah and Al-Baydah villages was scattered and disintegrated.

The enemy troops were either killed, wounded, captured, or chased across the marshes. Al-Duri explained that the enemy had intended to send other large forces to the battle area to maintain their momentum, thinking that the situation was in its favor, especially in the areas close to the marshes where it could find a foothold for itself. However, the Iraqi forces scattered enemy forces in record time.

The commander pointed out that the Iranian forces were besieged in the middle of the ('Ujayrid) area, which extends to about 10 km in the marshes. This enabled the Iraqi forces to dismember the enemy's combat effort and to surround the enemy forces in stages. He said that the presidential guard forces assigned themselves the task of confronting the massive Iranian concentrations between ('Ujayrid) and Al-Baydah and destroying them with splendid backing of the 10th Armored Brigade and the (Muhan) force. He added that the Iranian Chinook helicopters that carried the enemy troops were also destroyed by Iraqi fire. He said that Iraqi forces destroyed what Iran had been preparing for over a year. Thus, our victory has brought the end of the war closer by imposing just peace from a position of strength.

Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps, explained his corps' role in combat action over 7 days of fighting, lending artillery and engineering support to Iraqi units.

He added that the coordination of the Iraqi attack on the enemy forces was instrumental in defeating Iranian forces. He noted that despite the enemy's intrusion, in which it used large regular and irregular forces and for which it prepared for a long time, the Iraqi forces were able to dismember its forces and all their preparations to reach this area.

The commander of the 5th Division, Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani, said that his units reached their preassigned targets in record time and began purging them. He said the 30th Armored Brigade arrived at the Abu 'Arran bridge and (Fathah), and purged (Fathah) village.

The 20th Brigade made a daring pounce toward the villages on the western bank of the Tigris River. He said that the Iraqi units wiped out enemy forces in Al-Huraybah and besieged the Iranian forces that infiltrated the area between the Tigris River and the Iraqi units, completely destroying them.

The commander said that the 30th Armored Brigade proceeded to the villages south of Al-'Uzayr and on the western bank of the Tigris and wiped out enemy soldiers who infiltrated to the villages of (Al-Shati'), Al-Sukhayri, and Sayrafah, where they were wiped out along with their boats and bridges.

Foreign Airlines Suspend Flights to Tehran

JN191857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1744 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — The time limit which Iraq set for international airlines to clear Iranian airspace ended at 1800 today Baghdad time. Two days ago an Iraqi military spokesman warned foreign airlines that all Iranian airspace is to be considered an exclusion zone and expressed hope that everyone would abide by this decision. The spokesman explained that the decision was made out of a desire to ensure the safety of passengers on civilian flights to and from Iran.

Several European airlines, including Lufthansa, Alitalia, and Austrian Airlines, have suspended flights to and from the Iranian capital. Air India, Turkish Airlines, and SAS also suspended their flights and other airlines are expected to follow suit.

REUTER reported in a dispatch from Tehran that there was a big rush for air bookings in the Iranian capital today following the decision by several international airlines to suspend flights. The agency also reported that 350 West Germans left Tehran for Frankfurt on a chartered flight and that another chartered plane carried Austrian, Yugoslav, and East European passengers. The agency also reported that other foreigners left by land for the Turkish border, 900 km from Tehran.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

JN191813 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and president of the current GCC Foreign Ministers Council. The Kuwaiti minister arrived in Baghdad on a short working visit today.

Shaykh al-Sabah briefed Tariq 'Aziz on the results reached by the GCC Foreign Ministers Council, which ended meetings in Riyadh today. Shaykh al-Sabah said the GCC countries expressed their complete solidarity with Iraq in its attempts to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He added that the GCC countries expressed satisfaction with Iraq's stand, based on its serious acceptance of the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and all international initiatives and resolutions calling for a halt to military operations and the attainment of a peaceful settlement to the dispute with Iran.

The Kuwaiti official reaffirmed the GCC countries' stand urging Arab countries to assume their responsibilities to implement the Fes summit resolutions, which supported Iraq in its just battle to defend its territory and sovereignty. He reaffirmed the Arab countries' commitment to the collective Arab defense pact in case any part of Arab territory is subjected to aggression.

Tariq 'Aziz expressed Iraq's appreciation for the GCC countries' brotherly stand which seeks to exert efforts to end the war and reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the dispute.

Finance Minister Receives Cuban Minister

JN191547 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq met with Levi Farah, Cuban minister without portfolio in charge of overseas construction, and his accompanying delegation here today. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and areas of cooperation between Iraq and Cuba. The Cuban minister arrived in Baghdad last Sunday on an official visit to Iraq.

PRC Construction Minister, Delegation Depart

JN201011 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA) — Rui Xinghen, PRC minister of urban and rural construction, and his delegation left Baghdad at dawn today at the end of a 1-week visit. During the visit, the PRC minister held talks with a number of Iraqi officials on enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the housing and construction fields.

UN Representative Confers With Perez De Cuellar

JN200729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0618 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] United Nations, 20 Mar (INA) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met with Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraq's UN permanent representative, here last night. They discussed developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the prospects of exerting efforts to lay down a basis for holding peaceful negotiations to end the conflict.

AL-KHALIJ: Al-Jumayyil Plans To Visit Syria

GF191728 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 19 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Beirut — *AL-KHALIJ* has learned that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil will visit Damascus tomorrow, Wednesday. He will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss the uprising of "the Lebanese Forces."

Delegation Representing Ministers Leaves for Damascus

NC200825 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] A delegation representing Ministers Dr Salim al-Huss, Attorney Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt left for Damascus last night. The group will meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They will be briefed on the latest developments, Syria's view of events in the east, and the results of the recent contacts between Syrian leaders and the Lebanese Government. Special emphasis will be placed on the call between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil.

Belgian Embassy To Open Office in Al-Hazimiyah

NC201104 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Belgian ambassador to Lebanon has informed Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, that his country has decided to open a branch of its embassy in Al-Hazimiyah's Mar Taqla section. Belgium will also keep its embassy offices in Verdun.

Tripartite Committee Formulates Program

NC192043 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The Tripartite Committee, comprising Minister Joseph al-Hashim, former Minister Michel al-Murr, and Karim Paqraduni, which met at the Voice of Lebanon building this evening, has issued the following statement:

Following discussions held by the Tripartite Committee on the problems existing in the eastern areas, and following the proposals submitted in a working paper for a solution to the problems, on which all parties concurred; and proceeding from the committee's conviction to devote its efforts to the important fateful issues, which would preserve Lebanese unity and the citizens' security, the committee has formulated a practical program to implement what we have agreed upon. The committee will begin with the following:

1. To act to consolidate security and stability;
2. To convene joint meetings to achieve understanding about the articles outlined in the working paper to ensure practical partiticpation in decisionmaking;
3. To conduct the necessary exchanges to form an expanded Lebanese front, which would include various personalities, to achieve a unified and comprehensive position;
4. To emphasize through domestic and foreign exchanges that recent developments will not prevent the achievement of national accord and Lebanon's unity;
5. To continue the committee's meetings and activities in a few days to accomplish the tasks.

Security Situation Deteriorates in Sidon

Gunmen Assault Sidon Residents

NC191239 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Colleague Muhammad al-Asad reported a short while ago that Lebanese Forces gunmen warned the citizens of Sidon living in 'Abra, Al-Hilaliyah, and the surrounding area, who number more than 30,000 people, to leave their homes within an hour. The deadline for this evacuation expired at 1200 today.

Hundreds of citizens are now assembling at the Lebanese Red Cross and civil defense centers to inquire about the fate of their families and relatives. This is particularly true since the heads of these families were at work in Sidon when clashes broke out yesterday while women and children remained at home.

Eyewitnesses in Sidon said that Lebanese Forces gunmen broke into houses, assaulted women, looted, and beat and insulted people. They undertook all manner of inhuman and unethical actions.

The sound of sporadic explosions, gunfire, and sniper fire is now heard. However, it appears that there are no clashes.

Army Command Statement

NC191334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1305 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 19 March]

[Text] Army positions east of Sidon came under fire from various weapons yesterday and today. The fire originated from 'Abra and Al-Hilaliyah. The Army was forced to retaliate with the appropriate weapons to deter the gunmen. These clashes, still continuing, resulted in the deaths of two Lebanese Army soldiers and the wounding of nine others. One military vehicle was damaged.

At a time when it has committed itself to liberating the south, this command regrets being forced into such a situation.

6 Dead, 30 Wounded

NC200643 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Official and popular concern is focused on yesterday's events in Sidon. A security source said last night that fighting near the city's Al-Qayya'ah, 'Abra, and Al-Hilaliyah areas has stopped, and has been replaced by sporadic sniper fire.

According to reports, 6 people were killed and 30 others were wounded in incidents occurring over the past 2 days.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni commented on these developments by saying: At this difficult time, when the Israeli enemy is occupying our land, continuing to inflict the gravest harm on our people, trying to undermine our national unity, and working to fragment our country, we must make common efforts and adopt a single set of positions to save Lebanon. We have always said that if the country's unity is difficult to achieve, its division is impossible.

VOL Views Sidon Situation

NC200744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the Al-Qayya'ah, Al-Hilaliyah, and 'Abra areas in the south. Vehicles carrying gunmen belonging to the Islamic groups were seen last night roaming the areas around Al-Bramiyah and Al-Hilaliyah. In the past few hours, the Christian areas came under gunfire.

While the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Directorate has accused the inhabitants of 'Abra and Al-Hilaliyah of attacking Army personnel there, security sources in the Al-Qayya'ah-Al-Hilaliyah-'Abra area have explained the reality of what is happening in the area. These sources pointed out that an armed group belonging to Shaykh Salah al-Din Arqadan entered 'Abra 2 days ago, in cooperation with personnel from Battalion 98, which is present in the area, and kidnapped 4 Christian citizens. When the inhabitants pursued the gunmen to retrieve the kidnapped persons, personnel of Battalion 98 confronted them and this led to an exchange of fire.

It is worth mentioning that Battalion 98 was in Tripoli before it moved to the south following the Israeli withdrawal. Most of the battalion's personnel are influenced by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban's extreme ideas against the Christians — ideas which advocate the Islamization of the Christians. It is known that Shaykh Arqadan's group supports this line.

Socialists, Nasirites Issue Warning

NC200720 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] In response to the events in Sidon, the Progressive Socialist Party and the Nasirite Popular Organization have issued a statement, rejecting all the attempts to refuel security disturbances in Sidon and its vicinity. The statement adds that they will together resist, with all available means, the attempts to control Sidon and its vicinity, and that they will cooperate with all the activists of Sidon and the south. They also underline their categorical rejection of all the Phalangist fascist ideas meant to partition the homeland on sectarian lines.

The statement says that the Progressive Socialist Party and the Nasirite Popular Organization will cling to the progressive national heritage established in Lebanon, and in Sidon in particular, by the alliance formerly existing between the great martyrs Kamal Junblatt and Ma'ruf Sa'd.

The statement concludes by warning, before it is too late, those who play with fire, against the grave and inevitable consequences of their game.

Iran's Foreign Minister Begins Visit 19 Mar

Arrives in Damascus

JN191743 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus from Algeria this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of the Asian desk and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Received by Al-Asad

JN192034 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation at 2130 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Foreign Dignitaries Conduct Visits to Damascus

PDRY's Yahya, Al-Dali

JN191809 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau, and 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria. They will hold talks with officials on the general Arab situation. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Ba'th Party Regional Command member Tawfiq Salihah, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the PDRY ambassador in Damascus, and the chief and members of the National Command Foreign Relations Bureau.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Anis Hasan Yahya said he came to Damascus to hold consultations with Syrian officials on the ways to confront the serious developments in the Arab area. These developments call for action against attempts to Arabize the Camp David conspiracy and to peddle the Reagan plan and other capitulatory plans aimed at liquidating the Palestine cause. Yahya asserted his confidence in the success of the Arab national regimes in consolidating their relations and cooperating against all treasonous agreements and anti-Arab plots.

Algeria's Messaadia, Ibrahimi

JN192104 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat in Algeria, and Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening. They were received by Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, Ba'th Party Regional Command assistant secretary; Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; the director of the Arab homeland desk at the Foreign Ministry; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; the Algerian ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff; and the director and members of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Ba'th Party National Command.

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria, and said: This visit falls within the framework of continued contacts between the two fraternal countries, exchanges of viewpoints, and discussion of many issues of common interest.

PNC's Al-Fahum Visits Damascus

JN200953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum in Damascus today. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Arab arena, especially the moves of the reactionary axis represented by 'Arafat, Husayn, Mubarak, and Saddam, which is working to liquidate the Palestinian cause. Talks also dealt with the Palestinian and Arab efforts and activities being exerted to confront the U.S. schemes of capitulation, foil the 'Arafat-Husayn-Mubarak agreement, promote the Arab steadfastness, and mobilize resources for the sake of confronting the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary scheme and toppling its agents and symbols.

Khaddam Receives U.S. Guest

JN201057 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received George Ball, former U.S. under secretary of state, in Damascus at 1000 today. The U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the current situation in the region.

Commentary Views Husayn-Mubarak Baghdad Visit

JN191422 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has crowned its diplomacy, which its secretary of state recently talked about, by assigning each of the U.S. agents a certain task and specific role to carry out before the time set for launching the complete U.S. scheme in the Arab arena. The tripartite summit in Baghdad among the pillars of apostasy and agentry cannot be dissociated from the issues that the Camp David leader had discussed with his U.S. master.

If the Baghdad tripartite meeting was held under circumstances permitting the heads of the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes to create excuses to cover up the real objective, the conference of U.S. ambassadors accredited to the Middle East has exposed the intentions and possible trends in U.S. Middle East policy. The move that followed the Amman agreement was accompanied by

a suspect move in Lebanon and wide moves by U.S. naval vessels in the Mediterranean, Gulf, and the Red Sea.

We, as well as all observers, do not rule out that what the Camp David leader carried away from Washington is totally different from the rumors that the United States frustrated Mubarak's hopes and consequently disappointed his twin in Amman or Yasir 'Arafat, their partner, in the game of liquidation and authorization. The United States knows that this reactionary group is unable to move safely and cannot guarantee the results of its move at a time when the United States has noticed that the renegades' concessions have moved the Arab people in a direction opposite to the desire of those rulers and that deviationist clique in the Palestinian arena.

The secretary of state did not deny this fact when he asked Husni Mubarak if he and those who support him in the Arab apostasy movement can prevent any new agreement from collapsing after the U.S. experience with the 17 May accord. Perhaps Mubarak did not find an answer to this question. He carried his plans and left, but he promised his U.S. interlocutors that his move this time would be more public and more positive vis-a-vis the guarantees that the United States is seeking — those that would satisfy Israel. In order to achieve that, Arab ranks must be further fragmented. Sedition must be fomented in order to guarantee the containment the Arab masses' tide which was revealed in the valiant resistance in southern Lebanon.

Because the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war keeps our Iraqi Arab people out of the confrontation with Zionism and imperialism and because 'Arafat's claims about heroism fell in the face of the heroic deeds in the south, it was necessary to give the Saddam regime help to continue its task — hence the Baghdad tripartite meeting, which coincides with the U.S. naval moves in the seas surrounding the Arab region.

Through what Butrus Ghali, planner of Camp David accords and one of the Egyptian regime's pillars, has announced, one can notice an important aspect of the expected U.S. trend. The call for security and military cooperation between the United States and the Arab states that are its allies, particularly at this time, is a fresh indicator of the dangerous eventualities that the Arab region will face.

If Washington and its agents are to check the pan-Arab resurgence of the Arab liberation movement, as these allies admit, they need protection. This is what Butrus Ghali's call meant, as well as the Jordanian warning to the United States that any ambiguity in its stand will move the Arab people in a direction that will not satisfy U.S. policy. The renegades are moving, but they fear the future while promising the United States. They are convinced that they cannot provide guarantees for their treasonous march.

In front of this picture, we wonder: Who is besieged, who is inside the fatal circle? Is it the apostasy movement or the escalating pan-Arab movement? We in this country do not doubt that the sides to the conspiracy can cause sedition in Lebanon in cooperation with Israel and in coordiaation with U.S. diplomacy. We also do not doubt that the United States has reserve agents in more than one Arab arena, and we do not deny that those who fell into the U.S. scheme can wage war against Arab nationalists in more than one Arab country. However, we are sure that this steadfast Arab country possesses abilities that make it stronger as long as the masses continue to besiege the pillars of apostasy and force the United States to become convinced that the May accord will not be repeated. The pan-Arab revolutionary tide will determine the final results.

AL-BA'TH Condemns Current Dissent in Lebanon

JN191043 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 19 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Suspect Movement and Its Dangerous Consequences," *AL-BA'TH* says: The movement taking place in East Beirut is aimed at turning the wheel backward, rebelling against legitimacy, and creating a new divisionist situation that will return Lebanon to the beginnings of the crisis at a time when the pains and wounds are almost alleviated and healed. This movement, which has chosen this time to declare its mutiny against the Lebanese legitimacy and the security and national accord process, has never been far from Israel's declared aim: namely, the partition of Lebanon and the establishment of sectarian entities to pressure Syria to compel it to retreat, compromise, and join the bandwagon of Arab capitulators in the area. The leaders of this movement have always been in the vanguard of those vying with one another to implement the Zionist will at a time suitable to Tel Aviv and its interests and designs.

AL-BA'TH adds: The leaders of the movement have forgotten that times have changed in Lebanon and that it is no longer possible for any faction or force to do what it likes or to foil the Lebanese people's efforts to build the future of a healthy, independent Lebanon. The Israeli arm, which used to reach out secretly to Juniyah several years ago, is now amputated from the shoulder in Sidon. Syria, which has paid a great deal so Lebanon can reach a safe haven amid the most turbulent storms and dangers, will not disregard any movement that wants to strike in the darkness and achieve its poisonous whims and designs. Syria will do whatever possible, which is much, to remove all obstacles impeding the security and national accord process in Lebanon. It will not make peace with any party, whatever its links, when this party stabs Lebanon and its legitimacy in the back with a poisonous danger.

Peres Comments on Arab Leaders Meeting in Baghdad

TA192029 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres hopes that the new Arab Baghdad-Amman-Cairo axis will be a counterweight to the rejectionist front countries, and that it will join the peace policy of Egypt. The prime minister was speaking with our correspondent Victor Nahmias during a visit to Ramla.

[Begin recording] [Nahmias] How do you regard the summit between the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq?

[Peres] As far as I can tell it points to the organization of an Arab bloc, which in comparison to the other bloc — the Iranian-Syrian-Libyan bloc — is more moderate. I hope that not only will such a bloc arise, but that it will also adopt in principle Egypt's peace policy.

[Nahmias] Sir, recently there have been signs of disputes within the coalition?

[Peres] Was the situation any different when there were different types of governments? [end recording]

No Objection Seen to U.S.-Joint Delegation Meeting

TA200719 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The U.S. Administration will agree to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the Americans are assured that this meeting will undoubtedly lead to direct negotiations with an Israeli delegation. Our correspondent reports that last week there were feverish coordination contacts between Washington and Jerusalem, through U.S. Ambassador Lewis. Israel did not express opposition to the U.S. position. Washington explained to President Mubarak that a parallel meeting between the United States and the delegation would only be possible once Israel's consent has been received, and without the inclusion of the PLO in that delegation. Prime Minister Peres will confer with Vice Prime Minister Shamir this morning, after the latter's return from Canada and Brussels, and will brief him on the latest political developments. Here is a report by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

[Begin recording] The more we learn about President Mubarak's visit to Washington, the more we realize that contrary to the initial impression, the visit was not an absolute failure, and also that U.S. opposition to preliminary talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation now sounds more like a maybe. Although the Americans have told Mubarak that they are not prepared to conduct negotiations in place of Israel, and that the principle of direct negotiations is the cornerstone of their Middle East policy, at the same time they did not reject outright the proposal for a preliminary meeting between the U.S. Administration and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Mubarak was told that the United States will take a favorable view of a meeting in Washington, if it is guaranteed that it will serve as the prelude to direct negotiations with an Israeli delegation. Either way, Washington will only accept such a move following Israel's consent, and will not be prepared to include the PLO in the political contacts.

Mubarak said during these talks that he, too, aspires to direct negotiations between the sides, but it is necessary to find the right path that will lead to direct negotiations. The Egyptian president mentioned various suggestions concerning that path, most of which center around his basic proposal of bringing a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to Washington.

At the end of Mubarak's visit, the United States rushed to report to Jerusalem, and a series of coordination meetings have subsequently been held between the two capitals, with the intermediary being U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. It looks like the ambassador is currently spending more time in Jerusalem than in the Embassy building in Tel Aviv. Lewis promised Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on behalf of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that no new steps will be taken without prior coordination with Israel.

It emerges from the talks in Jerusalem that Israel has not negated the U.S. position as presented to Mubarak, although it is necessary to emphasize that for the moment this is only the position of the Prime Minister's Office. Yesterday, the foreign minister returned from a visit to Canada and Europe, and this morning Shim'on Peres will update him on the political developments.

Thus it appears that Washington has given Mubarak leeway to continue to sound it out with King Husayn. Washington did this with the tacit agreement of Jerusalem. The United States believes that Mubarak now has to exhaust the move in the Arab world and finally find some partners to his initiative among the Arab countries. Jerusalem says that his dramatic trip to Baghdad creates an image of a broadening consensus around the Cairo-Amman-Baghdad axis, and people here are currently waiting to hear reports on the talks held by the Egyptian president during his visit to Jordan and Iraq. As usual in such cases, the man with the answers regarding the next stage of the peace process is King Husayn.[end recording]

Shamir Returns, Comments on U.S. Policy Change

TA191521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel has no confirmation that the Americans are prepared to receive a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Washington. The U.S. State Department spokesman said yesterday that the United States is prepared to consider this possibility. Minister Shamir said he hopes this report is incorrect. He spoke to our correspondent Amnon Nadav upon his return from a visit to Belgium and Canada.

Shamir Calls for Discussion of Galilee Defense

TA191845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says there are several ideas for defending the Galilee and he wants the Cabinet to

discuss the question before the final withdrawal. Shamir was speaking to reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport after returning from an official visit to Canada. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording][Essing] Vice Premier Shamir said he could not comment on recent statements by Prime Minister Peres. Shamir did not know what had been decided while he was abroad. However, the vice premier made it clear he wants the Cabinet to take a hard look at security policy before the final withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Shamir] There are several ideas about the solution to the problem of the security of our citizens in the Galilee, and I think that the government has to decide on it before we reach the international border; therefore, I think there will be a thorough discussion about this problem and I hope that the right decisions will be made.

[Essing] Shamir said there is no confirmation that the United States will agree to meet a Palestinian delegation. He hopes the reports are not true. Shamir repeated that Israel opposed any meeting between the United States and the PLO. The visit of Egypt's President Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn to Baghdad was not a step toward peace:

[Shamir] I do not know the contents of their conversation, but I can understand that it is an important meeting for them to strengthen the positions of Baghdad at this time, and maybe other problems were raised. However, in my view such meetings are not a contribution to the advancement of peace in our region, because only talks with Israel will be such a contribution.

[Essing] Turning to his visit to Ottawa, Vice Premier Shamir said that Canada's new Prime Minister Brian Mulroney gave him a warm welcome. Shamir believes the Canadian Government will favorably consider sending a contingent to the multinational peace keeping force in Sinai. Canada's Foreign Minister Joe Clark and a high level trade delegation will soon be coming to Israel. [end recording]

Peres Speaks on Withdrawal, Border Security
TA191215 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Today Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel can ensure the safety of the settlements and the IDF soldiers through deployment along our border. It is impossible to promise that there will be hermetic security, but a reasonable degree of security can be given to the north. The prime minister was speaking to students from Ramla. Our correspondent Lemor Nahum was there:

[Begin Peres recording] The withdrawal is proceeding as fast as possible. There is no political obstacle to early withdrawal from Lebanon. There are operational considerations — part of which are known and others that we cannot publicize — determining the timetable. I have already stated that I estimate that we will withdraw from almost all of Lebanon within 8 to 10 weeks, that is, within 2 months. We are doing everything possible so that the IDF will not remain in Lebanon 1 minute more than is necessary in order to defend the lives of our soldiers, their health, and safety. Had I had any doubts about this, I would have raised them for discussion.

I would like to add that I believe that we can ensure the safety of the people and the settlements, the security of northern Israel, and the safety of the IDF soldiers through a deployment along our border, and not from Lebanon. It is possible to provide northern Israel with a reasonable degree of security through mobile defense and a suitable IDF deployment along our border. [end recording]

Rabin Visits S. Lebanon, Meets ASL Commander
TA191704 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1642 GMT
19 Mar 85

[Text] Tel Aviv, 19 Mar (ITIM) — Today Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited southern Lebanon. During his visit he held a talk with General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]. He also met other ASL officers and commanders of the civilian guards.

Later Rabin, who was accompanied by the chief of staff and top IDF officers, toured the planned security zone, and closely inspected the terrain of the sector and the activity there.

IDF Kills S. Lebanese Villager, Wounds Another
TA192016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Today the IDF forces killed a man from the village of 'Aba in southern Lebanon when he tried to escape during searches that were conducted by the IDF in the village. Another inhabitant who tried to escape was shot and wounded. Our correspondent reports that during the searches several villagers were detained, and one of the houses in which weapons were found was demolished. Our forces did not sustain any casualties.

Survey Shows Galilee Residents Support Withdrawal
TA192022 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Interview with pollster Mina Tzemah by anchorman Yaron London — live]

[Text] [London] We will now devote several minutes to the issue of how one correctly interprets public opinion polls. In our Tel Aviv studio is Dr Mina Tzemah, who conducted the Dahaf Institute poll regarding the position of the northern settlers on the withdrawal and the future security situation. It turns out that the residents of the north are comparatively calm, and that the great majority of them support the withdrawal from Lebanon. Good evening Mrs Tzemah.

[Tzemah] Good evening, Yaron.

[London] What are the actual findings?

[Tzemah] The findings show that 73 percent of the residents of Qiryat Shemona and Metulla believe that the government's decision to withdraw from Lebanon was correct. As for the intention of residents to leave these settlements in the north — we examined this both in Metulla and Qiryat Shemona — the percentages in both places are very similar: Approximately 8.5 percent said they have practical plans to leave following the withdrawal. I want to note that we examined the percentage of people who left Qiryat Shemona in the years preceding the Lebanese war, and 8.5 percent also left Qiryat Shemona during 1981, which was when the katyushas fell on the town.

[London] If 73 percent of the people support the government's steps in Lebanon, then 27 percent are against this move?

[Tzemah] Yes, approximately 25 percent, because about 2 percent abstain.

[London] Did you conclude that the mood of the northern residents has not changed following the decision to withdraw?

[Tzemah] I have not examined their mood, for it is very difficult to speak about moods. What I did examine is the percentage of people who have practical plans to leave Qiryat Shemona. I want to present another finding: We presented people with the option of leaving Qiryat Shemona. We told them that they could chose any city without any financial or vocational limitations. Fifty-six percent said they would prefer to remain in Qiryat Shemona, and 70 percent would prefer to remain in Metulla. I want to say that the tendency to move from one settlement to another exists in Israel and throughout the world. People are mobile, and there are many reasons for them to move. The percentages I mentioned are average for towns the size of Qiryat Shemona in Israel.

Druze Prepare for Battle To Control Al-Shuf
TA200520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Druze in the Al-Shuf area are preparing for a battle for control of the eastern sector [of Lebanon] after the IDF withdrawal. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal following a visit to the region. From atop Jabal al-Baruk one can see scores of tanks that the Druze have taken out of underground garages in the villages. They are also building bunkers and positions, and are in possession of armored personnel carriers and pieces of artillery. Our military correspondent says that IDF sources believe the Druze will have no difficulty taking over Jabal al-Baruk as well after the withdrawal.

Our military correspondent further adds that IDF units in the eastern sector will be prepared for mobilization within a short period of time, as part of the withdrawal, although the commanders in the region have not been notified of the exact date for the completion of the evacuation.

FRG's SPD Leader Vogel Arrives for Visit
TA191734 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1710 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 19 Mar (ITIM) — This afternoon Dr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the chairman of the FRG Social Democratic Party (SPD) [title as received], arrived in Israel at the head of a high-level SPD delegation for a 3-day visit as guests of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the Labor Party.

Dr Vogel heads the SPD faction in the FRG Bundestag, and this is the largest opposition party in the West German parliament. The guest and his entourage were greeted at the airport by Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am, secretary general of the Labor Party, and MK Refa'el Edri, head of the Labor Party Knesset faction.

In a short statement the guest said that the purpose of the visit is to strengthen relations between the two nations and the two parties. "We came to strengthen the joint effort to advance peace in the Middle East and throughout the world," Vogel said.

The delegation will meet Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and will be received by President Hayim Herzog.

They will also meet Ramallah mayor [as received] Karim Khalaf, and Anwar Nusaybah, who is one of the Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem.

The delegation will end its visit next Tuesday.

Restrictions Against Bethlehem CP Leader Extended
TA191925 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The military government in Judaea and Samaria has extended the restriction order against George Hasbun, a Bethlehem resident and leader of the Palestinian Communist Party, for another 6 months. The order confines him to house arrest during the night and prohibits him from leaving town. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that the HADASH faction has asked the Histadrut Central Committee to intervene on behalf of Hasbun as a Labor leader.

Problems in Establishing New Settlements Examined
TA200622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] There are problems and obstacles on the road to establishing six settlements in the territories, as per the decision of the government. The Cabinet allocated money for the establishment of only two settlements and the financing of the remaining four settlements is not directly paid by the government. Our correspondent Shalom Oren explains:

[Begin recording] Two of the six settlements will be set up by the Construction and Housing Ministry. They are: Avne Hefez and Betar. An investigation shows that the cost of establishing

Avne Hefez is approximately $8 million, the sum required for the establishment of eight communal settlements. Regarding Betar, there are still technical problems, and things have not yet been finalized with the nucleus that is expected to settle there. The budget allocation for both these settlements is not specified in the Construction and Housing Ministry's budget.

The four other settlements, Migdalim, Ne'ot Adummim, Peles, and 'Asa'el, will be established by the Jewish Agency's Land Settlement Department. The cost is an estimated $5 million, yet the Cabinet's budget allocates only $2 million, and the Jewish Agency people were told that the remaining sum will be pledged in the fiscal year beginning April 1986. Meanwhile, planning work is under way, and there is no telling when the actual work at the sites will begin.

All in all, the government's budget allocation for Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza District, the Jordan Rift Valley, and the Golan stands at $30 million, or 15 percent less than last year, in dollar-linked value. This budget will hardly suffice to maintain what already exists.

The heads of the Judaea and Samaria settlements, and Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, who heads the lobby established in the Knesset to push for the Judaea and Samaria settlements' cause, have recently been busy trying to persuade ministers and Knesset members from all the factions to work toward increasing the budgets, or at least prevent an erosion, while everyone realizes that this time it will be difficult.

Another, vaguely related issue: The head of the Jewish Agency's Land Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, has approached the prime minister with the request that three outposts be established at once along the Lebanese border, even before the withdrawal of the IDF. He claims that now is the time to set them up, adding that this action will also boost the moral of the local residents. The problem, Drobles claims, is that there is no Ministerial Committee on Settlment Affairs, and since this is the case, only the prime minister can make such a decision, or at least raise it at the Cabinet. [end recording]

Monthly Price Hikes To Go Into Effect 1 April

TA180818 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Yehoshu'a Me'iri]

[Excerpts] In a meeting to discuss the package deal yesterday, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon decided to implement monthly price rises at the beginning of each month as of 1 April 1985. A price freeze would be maintained during the rest of the month.

Minister Sharon disclosed that the "exceptions committee" would no longer approve price hikes in the middle of the month but would rather check each and every product and approve price increases once a month, along with all other products.

Foreign Debt Dropped in Last Quarter of 1984

TA180820 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
18 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by the economic correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Israel's foreign debt dropped by some $500 million in the last 3 months of 1984. This fact emerged during the preparation of a report on Israel's foreign debt at the end of 1984.

The drop was mainly caused by the use of foreign currency reserves to finance deficits and repay debts. Obviously, the drop in our foreign debt does not mean that Israel's economic situation has improved but mainly stems from the fact that certain loans that came due were not renewed. To a certain extent, the strengthening of the U.S. dollar and the weakening of the European currencies also affected the drop since part of the debt is in European currencies. The drop was both in the public and private sectors.

The drop in Israel's foreign debt also affected the foreign currency reserves. Senior economic sources believe the government allowed the reserves to drop too much, to the point of endangering Israel's position in the international financial community. According to these sources, a supreme effort should have been made to renew the loans, even if this entailed numerous difficulties, to prevent the foreign currency reserves from dropping to a critical level.

It is feared that a continuing drop of the reserves would adversely affect the public's behavior and lead to a rush to buy foreign currency and imported products. Such a situation would compel the government to take unsavory measures.

Replying to a question, the Finance Ministry's Accountant General Arye Sher said that the fact that U.S. aid is given as a grant rather than as a loan will also affect the level of Israel's foreign debt.

Commentaries View Arab Leaders Meeting in Baghdad

TA200748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0430 GMT 20 Mar 85

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *'AL HAMISHMAR* deals with the Egyptian president's visit to Baghdad and the alliance being established among Cairo, Amman, and Baghdad. Iraq has recently resumed diplomatic relations with the United States. The resumption of relations with Egypt further emphasizes Iraq's shift toward the U.S. sphere of influence. It is possible to view these events as unrelated to the prospects for a political settlement. Once the dominant school of thought in Israel preferred the extremist states in the Arab world, because while it was possible to talk to moderate states, it was also necessary to reach a compromise with them. Even today, the right is not enthusiastic about any expression of moderation in the region. Perhaps those who genuinely aspire toward peace must favorably view these positive events. However, their immediate effects on the peace prospects must not be exaggerated.

HATZOFE writes that the tripartite meeting in Baghdad was designed, among other things, to enlist Iraq's support for Egypt's political initiative. If Saddam Husayn will indeed give his blessing to Mubarak's initiative, he will help the Arab states press the United States to agree to prior talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, without the participation of Israel. Some proposals of U.S. Administration spokesmen show that Washington is likely to seek ways to initiate preparatory talks and to cover this up with noncommittal statements about direct negotiations with Israel at a later stage. Israel must follow the new moves being worked out in the United States with vigilance and demand direct negotiations without preconditions and prior talks.

HAMODI'A writes that politicians and analysts in Jerusalem have been panic-stricken by the display of unity among the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, who only recently wanted to spill each others' blood. It is a weakness to view the shadow of mountains as actual mountains, and to seek in Baghdad what does not exist. Can Saddam Husayn indeed salvage Mubarak's initiative? Will the Egyptian president exploit the Iraqi president's plight to achieve recognition for his country? The political and military situation in Baghdad does not provide an atmosphere conducive to a discussion of initiatives that have not yet materialized. The three leaders had better be left alone to stew in their own thick juice, mixed with the blood of their kin that is continuously being spilled, in the hope that their internal distress will force them to leave us alone.

THE JERUSALEM POST thinks it is obvious that Husni Mubarak is determined to broaden the circle of supporters for his initiative in order to increase the chances of the U.S. Administration agreeing to a prior dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. According to unconfirmed reports, it appears that Egypt will now try to secure Algeria's support for Mubarak's initiative. A U.S. State Department spokesman has hinted that prior talks may be held with a delegation if it does not include PLO representatives. Now the Egyptian president and his allies must prepare the formula that will make it possible to form such a delegation.

HADSHOT YISRA'EL maintains that although the Egyptian president and the Jordanian monarch are talking about a change in the PLO position, the realization of the idea to convene an advance meeting with an Arab delegation in Washington could become the start of the legitimization of the PLO. This situation calls for Israel to act so that it will not become clear at the last moment that a policy which is likely to be detrimental to our interests is being formulated in Washington.

Lusophone-Speaking Nations Discuss Mass Media
MB191228 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Experts from the five Portuguese-speaking African countries began a meeting in Maputo this morning to assess the existing cooperation and study means of expanding it. After the opening session, the experts were divided into study groups to discuss a number of issues related to information, namely news agencies, press, radio, and films.

Minister of Information Jose Luis Cabaco presided over the opening session.

The meeting is designed to prepare the first meeting of ministers of the five Portuguese-speaking countries scheduled for Tuesday.

Palm Oil Development Association Formed
AB161032 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 85

[Text] Ten African palm oil producing countries have agreed to set up the African Oil Palm Development Association, Afopda, at the end of a meeting in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The new body will exchange information about policy, projects, and technology and foster technical and economic cooperation.

Mr Dossongui Kone of Ivory Coast was elected its first president with Nigeria occupying the vice presidency. Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Guinea will be on its executive committee. The executive secretaryship will go to Benin Republic. Liberia will choose an external auditor while Ghana, Togo, and Zaire are the other members of Afopda.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid Receives Iran's Velayati

LD191828 Algiers APS in English 1034 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 19-3-85 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, FLN party secretary general audienced here on Monday [18 March] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member, minister of foreign affairs who briefed him on his mission in Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso as special envoy to heads of states of the 3 countries.

President Chadli Benjedid also audienced 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Iranian Republic of Iran and special envoy of President 'Ali Khamene'i Velayati who handed over to the president of the Republic a message from the Iranian president.

Velayati Departs

LD191835 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Algiers this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of Foreign Affairs; Boualem Bessaih, member of the Central Committee and minister of post and telecommunications; and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Messaadia Receives PRC's Zhang Jingfu in Algiers

LD191522 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 19-3-85 (APS) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member, head of C.C. Permanent Secretariat audienced here on Monday [18 March] a Chinese delegation now paying an official visit to Algeria and led by Zhang Jingfu, vice-premier and state councillor.

After having dealt with the bilateral relations between the two parties and the two countries, the two sides expressed their satisfaction about the nature of the Algero-Chinese cooperation and affirmed their will to extend this cooperation notably to the scientific field and priority sectors in the frame of South-South cooperation.

International questions of common interest and experiences of both countries in various fields were at the center of talks during which the two sides emphasized the importance of exchanging such experiences. Zhang transmitted an official invitation from the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee to a delegation of the F.L.N. party to visit officially the People's Republic of China.

Received by President

LD191539 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 19 Mar (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, today received at his office Mr Zhang Jingfu, vice premier and state councillor of the People's Republic of China. The meeting was attended by Mr Abdelaziz Khellef, member of the Central Committee and minister of trade, and the ambassador of the two countries.

President Chadli Benjedid today received also at his office Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and the official in charge of the Permament Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, and Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, before their departure for Damascus.

Messaadia, Ibrahimi Visit Damascus 19 Mar

LD201142 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 20-3-85 (APS) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member, head of the C.C. Permanent Secretariat and Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi Politburo member, minister of foreign affairs, arrived on Tuesday to Damascus for a short visit.

In a declaration to the press, Messaadia said that his visit is part of contacts between the two countries in order to exchange points of view on a certain number of questions of common interest.

LIBYA

Iraqi Charge Told of Iran's Reply to Appeal

LD191915 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1833 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar (JANA) — The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday summoned the charge d'affaires of the Iraqi Embassy in Tripoli and informed him that following the appeal made by the commander of the revolution to President Saddam Husayn and Imam Khomeyni to stop attacking and shelling towns and civilian targets in Iraq and Iran, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visited the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and delivered a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the September Revolution, containing the response of the Iranian Islamic Republic to the appeal of the brother commander stating its readiness to immediately halt all shelling and attacks on towns and civilian targets in Iraq provided that Iraq does the same.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison asked the brother Iraqi charge d'affaires to inform President Saddam Husayn of Iran's response to the appeal of the commander of the revolution and to urge him to insure that Iraq will stop attacking towns and civilian targets in Iran.

He was also asked to inform Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah of Iraq's response and of the time of commitment to halt attacks on civilian targets should Iraq wish to fix a proposed date, so that the necessary arrangements can be made to stop shelling and attacking towns and civilian targets in both countries.

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD191128 Tripoli JANA in English 0957 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jumada Thani, 19 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Yemen, arrived in Tripoli last night for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah lasting several days during which he would hold talks and contacts aimed at bolstering the bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries.

On arrival Dr al-'Iryani gave a statement to JANA correspondent in which he said that his visit comes in the context of continued contacts between the leader of the revolution and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Arab Republic of Yemen, on the bilateral, Arab and Islamic fronts. He said the current dangers facing the Arab nation warrant greater bilateral contacts and efforts.

Before leaving Sanaa airport bound for Tripoli Dr al-'Iryani said that his visit to Libya falls in the frame of the strong fraternal ties that link the two brotherly people and their wish to bolster these ties for the common good.

Delivers Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD192032 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jumada Thani, 19 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received today 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in North Yemen and conveyed to the leader a message from President 'Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen Arab Republic.

The message is related to the meeting scheduled to take place in Damascus about setting up an Arab strategy called for by the leader of the revolution in his speech on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the declaration of the establishment of the people's authority and birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

Departs Tripoli 19 Mar

LD192038 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 26, March 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in North Yemen left Tripoli this evening ending a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Moroccan Trade, Tourism Minister Arrives

LD191449 Tripoli JANA in English 0959 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jumada Thani, 19 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Azzedine Guessous, the trade and tourism minister of Morocco, arrived in Tripoli last night.

He told JANA correspondent that the visit by him and his accompanying delegation to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah comes in the context of the exemplary relations of co-operation between the two sisterly countries and in the spirit of the Arab-African Union which has been established by the efforts of the leader of the revolution and King Hassan II.

He also said that the two sides would discuss during his visit all the means that would strengthen the economic, trade and industrial co-operation between Morocco and the Jamahiriyah as called for by the [words indistinct] agreement between Libya and Morocco.

SUDAN

President Numayri To Address Nation 23 Mar

JN191457 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — President Numayri will deliver an important political speech to the Sudanese nation at the opening session of 3-day meetings of the SSU central leadership which will begin on 23 March. President Numayri will deal with issues in the political arena in the country as well as current issues.

In another development, the SSU secretary general will present a report to the central leadership on the achievements of the political organization during the past period. The report will define national responsibilities in the present stage and the role of the revolution's masses in protecting national unity and the solidarity of the domestic front and in continuing support for the Islamic trend.

Numayri Receives Message From Amir of Kuwait

JN191438 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a written message from His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in reply to the president's message. The president received the message during his meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Sari' this morning. In a statement after the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador said that the message deals with bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing them.

Numayri Issues Decrees Appointing Judges

JN191744 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a republican decree today appointing Dr 'Ali Ibrahim al-Imam, judge at the Supreme Court, as head of the judiciary apparatus in the national capital.

Another republican decree reorganizes the Criminal Court of Appeals in the national capital under the presidency of Dr Ahmad Idris Ahmad, judge at the Supreme Court. Ahmad Muhammad 'Uthman and Muhammad Sir al-Khitim, judges at the Supreme Court, were appointed members. He also issued a third republican decree appointing Shakir Husayn 'Arzun as judge at Criminal Court No 12 in the national capital.

People's Assembly Speaker Leaves for IPU Meeting

JN191848 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid, People's Assembly speaker and president of the Interparliamentary Union, has left for Lome to chair the IPU's 73d conference scheduled to begin there on Friday. While in the Togolese capital, he will meet with President General Gnassingbe Eyadema to convey to him a message from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri dealing with bilateral relations and the economic situation in Africa in light of the catastrophe of drought and desertification that is sweeping the continent.

In another development, a People's Assembly delegation is due to leave for Lome tomorrow, Wednesday, to participate in the conference.

The delegation will present a working paper on drought and desertification in Africa and the problems of refugees and emigration in the continent. It will also present another working paper on the burden of international debt on the developing countries and its effect on the economic situation in Third World countries.

SPLA Radio Notes Successful Raids on Rumbek, Akobo

EA191848 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army English 1300 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] units of Rhino Battalion under the command of the acting commander of the battalion, Captain Pagan Amuom, launched a successful raid into Rumbek town, the capital of Lakes Province, at 1700 hours on 15 March 1985.

The raid that was commanded by Lieutenant Garant Oluak resulted in the destruction of enemy installations and capture of four enemy soldiers and they are: Piny Kwach, Zacharia Mukwach, Moror Major and Chuol Duom — all armed with automatic rifles.

Units of Buffalo Battalion and SPLA commando units launched a raid and heavy shelling on Akobo between 0700 and 0800 hours on 16 March 1985 causing heavy damage on enemy installations. The operation was commanded by Lieutenant Moses Major and Lieutenant Makoyo Ojok.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Visits France, Meets Mitterrand

For Paris coverage of the visit to France by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, including his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, see the 18 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

ETHIOPIA

EPLF Leader Says 85 Percent of Territory 'Liberated'

GF201102 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 20 Mar (QNA) — Ramadan Muhammad Nur, secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF], who is currently visiting the UAE, has stated that 85 percent of all Eritrean territory has been liberated and is now directed by the front's specialized councils in cooperation with the Eritrean people.

In a statement to *AL-ITTIHAD* newspaper published today, he said: We have changed our tactics from defense to attack. We only need antiaircraft missiles to put an end to the enemy's air superiority and to defeat it and achieve victory and independence.

KENYA

President's Speech to Opening of National Assembly

EA192331 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Speech by Daniel arap Moi, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, at the official opening of National Assembly in Nairobi — live]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, I wish to welcome all honorable members of this house to the second session of our fifth parliament. This session is starting soon after a very successful seminar for honorable members at the Kenya Institute of Administration on our national development strategies. I am therefore confident that honorable members do realize that we have now reached a stage in our development process during which deliberations in this house must be underlined by total commitment to national objectives.

The memories of the harsh realities of prolonged drought, and the general conditions of economic turmoil, which plagued industrialized as well as developing countries, are no doubt still fresh in the minds of honorable members. However, when we reflect on our performance during the last 2 decades, it becomes quite clear that some economic crises and extreme adversity have often created the necessary atmosphere for generating practical solutions, provided the people are always united.

Concerning the overall performance of the economy, I am pleased to report to this house that, despite great odds, we have continued to apply appropriate measures and there are now clear indications that we are heading for more favorable conditions. There is a marked strengthening of government finances, a reduction in the current budget deficit, and a general improvement in financial discipline in all sectors. Our balance of payments position has improved, and our foreign exchange reserves have stabilized. We have also taken other measures which have had a positive effect in slowing down the rate of inflation.

Indeed, the message to be obtained from these improvements is that the economy is poised on the path to recovery. And I am assuring this house that my government will continue to pursue policies which will sustain this desirable trend. Inevitably, there will be some obstacles to be faced, but, judging from our past performance, I am confident that we have the ability to overcome them.

Much of the progress which we have experienced in the various sectors has not been as rapid as we would have wished, but we must not falter in our determination to fulfill the needs of the people. Honorable members will recall, for example, that when the gravelling, bridging, and culverting program was started in 1976, the target was to upgrade a total of 10,000 km of classified and minor roads to all-weather standard. By the end of 1984, some 2,800 km had been completed, which is 28 percent of what we set out to achieve. This may sound disappointing, but bearing in mind the unfavorable economic conditions which our country has experienced in recent years, this achievement compares well with the progress that has been experienced elsewhere in our continent. However, it is clear that we can and must do a lot more to improve on this performance during the third decade of our development.

Turning briefly to the housing sector, honorable members would be pleased to note that over the past 5 years alone, the National Housing Corporation has constructed more than 12,000 housing units, which have provided shelter to some 96,000 Kenyans. At present, there is an additional 3,000 housing units under construction and a further 9,000 being planned. When the construction of these units is completed, an additional 100,000 Kenyans will be provided with shelter. In our effort to further improve the production and marketing of agricultural produce, this house will be asked to improve the proposals contained in the sugar bill. The aim here is to regulate and control the production, marketing, and distribution of sugar, and also to formally establish the Kenya Sugar Development Authority, which will replace the existing Kenya Sugar Authority.

This parliament will also be asked to debate and approve the universities bill, which aims at the advancement of university education in Kenya. The bill, which is now before Cabinet, has proposals to promote the development, processing, storage, and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of mankind. It also contains provisions for the establishment of private universities and the university students accommodation board.

Mr Speaker, I find it necessary at this point to make a few comments on the recent deplorable behavior of a handful of University of Nairobi students. When I addressed the nation on the occasion of graduation ceremony in December last year, I reminded students to consider themselves luckier than their classmates, who, after obtaining the necessary qualifications, could not be placed in our universities. I also advised that Kenyans would not tolerate arrogance and indiscipline. It appears as if this message was not understood by some students. Consequently, a few irresponsible students allowed themselves to be misled and to forget their original purpose for which their fellow countrymen gave them the privilege of being at the university.

I would like these students, as well as their instigators, wherever they are, to understand fully the role of the government, and also that Kenya is determined to uphold the supremacy of parliament in the orderly conduct of our affairs. Parliament derives its authority from the people, who have the final word in democratically electing their representatives. It should therefore be clear to all that Kenyans have no intention of transferring this authority to any other group of people, and certainly not to university students.

And it should be understood, Mr Speaker, that all of us wish this country to be free from intimidation, but if threatening letters of killing emanate from our university, then what do we expect ourselves? Then the future must be bleak if the young people we are producing cannot face the challenges. I was very much dismayed. At the same time I did my best to have them employed [word indistinct] last year's students employed despite difficulties in being absorbed in many of our public institutions or in private sector. [applause] But the only consolation is that majority of them, as I indicated, 95.5 percent, are as innocent as ourselves and others, but the problem is that cowardice has taken root. When we are being told, be brave and preserve freedom, we cannot preserve freedom when others don't respect that freedom.

This house has the mandate of determine laws, rules, and regulations which govern the lives of all of us, including the university community. I therefore have no doubt that in discussing the universities bill, honorable members will come up with a workable system which will restore the dignity of this institution of higher learning.

Mr Speaker, the list of bills I have stated is not exhaustive, and parliament will, from time to time, be called upon to discharge business on other matters which will come up as the session progresses.

In our deliberation, we should bear in mind that Kenya cannot live in isolation. The developments in the world around us will inevitably influence the direction of our own advancement. Kenya has achieved much development in an atmosphere of freedom and stability.

It is our desire that the necessary conditions for development obtain elsewhere in the Continent of Africa. It is for this reason that we have pledged full support to the liberation movements fighting for the cause of human dignity in the southern part of Africa. We have all the confidence that our brothers who are suffering oppression and human degradation will soon be liberated. We also have reason to be optimistic that the misery, migration of refugees, and other undesirable pressures which confront most Third World countries are being tackled effectively and will eventually be brought under control.

Turning now to the situation here at home; let me say that in our ruling party, KANU, we have the necessary political machinery to generate, sustain, and develop the type of leadership that our nation requires and indeed deserves. The demands placed upon the political machinery have increased substantially since independence. Since most Kenyans are now aware of their democratic rights, this means that leaders in general and the party in particular will have to perform even better in ensuring that wananchi are given an opportunity to enjoy their rights to the full.

In providing these opportunities, it is necessary for civil servants, politicians, and wananchi to cooperate and work as a team. It is imperative for government officers to show exemplary leadership qualities. Members of parliament and other leaders must similarly play their part by offering maximum cooperation. This is the only way we can hope to pull together in the one direction of prosperity for all.

I will conclude my remarks today by appealing to those of us who have been given both the honor and privilege of serving our people in this supreme body of our nation to be more purposeful in our work. We must appreciate that in accepting to represent our people here, we have also pledged our commitment to thoroughly understand issues which we are called upon to deliberate. It is important for all of us to know that shallow oratory will not create the Kenya we want in the third decade of our independence. In any case, the dignity of this house can only be assessed against the quality of contributions made by each and every honorable member. And so let us get down to hard work in peace, love, and unity. Thank you.

UGANDA

President Obote Receives CPC Delegation

EA192233 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] President Milton Obote has received the delegation of the CPC who have been on a visit to Uganda at the invitation of the Uganda People's Congress [UPC]. The delegation led by Mr Jiang Guanghua, who is a member of the Central Committee and deputy director of the international liaison department of the Central Committee of the CPC, have held meetings with several ministers as well as officials of the UPC.

Mr Jiang Guanghua expressed gratitude to the UPC for the invitation and thanked the party and government for the warm welcome and [word indistinct] discussions. He conveyed best regards from the leadership of the CPC.

President Obote welcomed the delegation and told them that such a visit constitutes the promotion of understanding between the two countries. He said that the Uganda Government and people as a whole (?do) appreciate the work the Chinese are doing in Uganda in various fields.

The meeting took place at the president's office in Kampala and was attended by the secretary general of the UPC, Dr Luwuliza Kirunda; ministers; the UPC chief administrative secretary, Mr (Benz Osaya Lakiru); and senior government officials.

CHAD

Niger Official Says Bilateral Ties 'Very Good'

AB192123 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Very good relations exist between Chad and Niger and nothing beclouds their bilateral cooperation. The two countries strive to establish a brotherly and dynamic cooperation between them because they share the same destiny.

This is what Moumouni Yacouba, the Niger minister of public works and town planning, said at the end of his audience with President El-Hadj Hissein Habre this morning. He delivered a message from President Seyni Kountche to the Chadian head of state. He spoke to the Chadian press about his audience with the head of state.

[Begin Yacouba recording] As I told you, Niger and Chad have very good bilateral relations. It is therefore absolutely normal that we hold talks on these relations existing between our two countries and our two heads of state. [end recording]

CONGO

Hotline To Link President With Zairian Counterpart

EA200834 Dakar PANA in English 1351 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Brazzaville, 19 Mar (ACI/PANA) — The presidential residences of Congo and Zaire will soon be linked by a red telephone. This project, the feasibility of which was confirmed by telecommunications experts from the two countries meeting in Kinshasa, is still subject to Zairian and Congolese Government agreement.

RWANDA

PRC Party Delegation Arrives for 8-Day Visit

EA200242 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1115 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Summary] A Chinese Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Jiang Guanghua, deputy director of the Central Committee's International Liaison Department, arrived in Kigali today for an 8-day visit to Rwanda.

GHANA

Delegation Returns From Chernenko Funeral

AB191922 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Justice D.F. Annan, has arrived back home after leading a 3-member government delegation to the funeral of President Konstantin Chernenko of the Soviet Union. The late president died at the age of 73 on the 10th of this month and was buried on the 13th of the same month.

NIGERIA

Gambari Denies 'Rumors' of Border Clashes

AB191305 Dakar PANA English 1141 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Enugu (Nigeria), 19 March (NAN/PANA) — Nigeria's minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, has said that the country was not involved in any form of border clashes with her neighbors, a national newspaper, the *DAILY TIMES*, reported today.

Answering questions from newsmen on Sunday in Enugu, Dr Gambari denied rumors that Nigeria was involved in serious border clashes following recent military training exercises.

"All the military exercises both on land, air and sea are purely normal regular exercises. I can assure the people of this nation through you that we have no intention to go to war with any of our neighbors," the paper quoted him as saying.

He said that the present administration since its inception has always emphasised the need for Nigeria to live in peace with all its neighbors.

The paper reports that Dr Gambari said that the recent four-nation conference in Lagos involving Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana was a concrete beginning of peaceful co-existence with neighboring countries.

The minister said that Nigeria would extend to its northern and north-eastern neighbors in the spirit of its new foreign policy aimed at enhancing normal relations with them. [sentence as received]

He said that Nigeria was neither pro-Arab nor pro-Israel, adding that all its actions were in support of self-determination in Africa and the world at large.

ANGOLA

Defense Forces Kill 17 UNITA Members 4-5 Mar

MB200515 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] Seventeen UNITA bandits were annihilated by the Angolan defense and security forces during offensive operations launched on 4 and 5 March in Bie and Lunda Norte Provinces. During the clashes, the Peoples Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola combatants seized large quantities of war materiel and documents.

On 3 March, a UNITA element presented himself to the Angolan authorities in Cuanza Norte Province. Benefiting from the clemency policy defined by the MPLA-Labor Party toward UNITA and Angolan National Liberation Front-Military Committee of the Resistance in Angola, this compatriot left the bushes to be reintegrated into Angolan society.

UNITA Says 20 Cubans, 107 Soldiers Killed in March

PA191330 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Lisbon, March 19 (AFP) — The rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) said today it had killed 107 Angolan Government soldiers and 20 Cubans in three Angolan provinces in the first half of March.

A communique reaching here said that three government soldiers and an "enormous quantity" of material had been captured in operations in the provinces of Moxico in the northeast, Benguela in the centre and Kwanza Norte in the north.

BOTSWANA

Vice President Announces Customs Increases

MB181951 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, has announced increases in custom duties today based on the introduction of taxation proposals in the South African Parliament. Botswana is affected by such taxation as a member of the Southern African Customs Union. Mr Mmusi said in Parliament this afternoon that Botswana is required to operate customs and excise tariffs as applied in South Africa. The increases are effective from today.

Foreign Minister Returns From Chernenko Funeral

MB181644 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, arrived back home last Friday from Moscow where she represented Botswana at the funeral of the late Soviet leader, Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Dr Chiepe traveled to Moscow from Geneva where she had been attending a special UN conference on the emergency economic situation in Africa. Dr Chiepe delivered a statement to the conference on behalf of the president, Dr Quett Masire, who had been invited to address it in his capacity as chairman of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC.

A news release from the Department of External Affairs says the conference addressed itself to the urgency and gravity of the social and economic problems confronting Africa with special emphasis on both African countries affected by drought and famine. A statement on drought and famine in Botswana, which Dr Chiepe was due to deliver when she had to leave for Moscow, was delivered on her behalf to the conference by the counsellor at the Botswana Embassy and the mission to the EEC, Mr (Alfred Dube). The minister was accompanied to the conference by Dr Mutsena, deputy secretary of the Zimbabwean ministry of agriculture, representing Zimbabwe as SADCC coordinator for food security, and Mr (Richard Morgan), national food strategy coordinator in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

LESOTHO

Security Forces Kill Six Alleged PAC Members

MB191221 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] A senior government spokesman disclosed today that six persons believed to be members of the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] were killed last week in the Qhacha's Nek District.

It is understood that the group, who were armed, engaged a Lesotho security patrol in a sensitive border area that has often been used by LLA [Lesotho Liberation Army] infiltrators entering Lesotho from South African Transkei bantustan, and when challenged opened fire on the Lesotho patrol.

This incident, together with other incidents which resulted in the fatal shooting of an LPF [Lesotho Paramilitary Force] officer by an ANC refugee, and the firing of shots at the house of Mr Ndlovu, another ANC refugee, are under intensive investigation by Lesotho security forces.

NAMIBIA

Le Grange Lifts House Arrest of SWAPO Leader

MB181756 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1515 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Windhoek, March 18, SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has lifted the house arrest of a top-ranking SWAPO office bearer, Mr Nathaniel Maxulili, sources in Windhoek said today.

Mr Maxulili, who holds the title of SWAPO acting president, had been restricted to his house and place of work at Walvis Bay since 1968 in terms of the internal security act.

Legal sources said the order lifting the ban on Mr Maxulili had been served last week.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha, Crocker To Hold Talks in Cape Town

MB191911 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, will have talks in Cape Town this week. This has been confirmed by a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The talks in Cape Town will follow discussions between Dr Crocker and Angolan Government officials in Cape Verde today.

Our political news staff reports that the talks in Cape Town will probably deal with the Cuban issue and with problems standing in the way of the final withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola.

Finance Minister Presents Budget to Parliament

Goals Outlined

MB181118 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1008 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — The new constitutional system had brought new dimensions to budgeting, and wider processes of accountability, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, and said in the introduction to his budget speech today.

The budget was one of "unusual significance" in that it was the first to be presented to a joint session of the three houses of parliament.

Underlying the figures to be tabled were not only questions of eceonomics but also the aims and aspirations of the millions of people in South Africa's diverse society.

In this regard, the government intended to actively pursue common goals in four broad areas.

The first was the maintenance of an orderly society in the face of both internal subversion and external assault.

"The people of South Africa, whatever their cultural orientation or political views, have a right to look to the government for protection.

"Even those societies where the freedom of the individual has been exalted to the highest plane honour this solemn responsibility. Today's budget accords this basic requirement its rightful place."

The second area involved "all those activities designed to address the constitutional complexities of a society as heterogenous as that of South Africa."

To date, the post-colonial African experience had failed to maintain a truly democratic system capable of accommodating and serving culturally diverse nations — even in those cases where there were no differences of race.

The constitutional development of South Africa with its concomitant demand for social and economic upliftment required substantial effort and investment.

"Freedom, as with stability, has a price. While the financial implications of constitutional policy alternatives may be quantifiable, to some extent, they will no doubt also be substantial.

"However, the irreversible constitutional experiments are incalculable and therefore clearly unacceptable to reasonable South Africans. We must hurry, but carefully."

If the differences in society could be resolved by negotiation, by bold political intitiatives and the development of acceptable political structures at all levels, South Africa would achieve the stability, security and prosperity that was its birthright.

"It is encouraging that, within the constraints of this budget, this vital area of responsibility can be accommodated to enable the government effectively to pursue its complex and daunting brief."

The third area in which the government's goal was to be pursued covered a wide variety of social activities, and to this end "substantial funds" had again been earmarked for services such as education, training, welfare and pensions.

"This government has no hesitation in accepting its responsibility to take cognizance of the plight and needs of the disadvantaged and distressed people in our communities, and to cope with this human challenge to the best of its ability."

Finally, the government also pursued certain economic goals.

It remained committed to the principles of the free market and the free enterprise system, but at the same time would not shirk its regulatory responsibilities whenever it was necessary to act as referee or arbitrator.

The results of the decentralisation and deconcentration policies had proved their fundamental economic worth and soundness. While it was accepted that initial costs might be high and yields modest, the cumulative and long-term effect of taking development and employment opportunities to where the resources were, made "eminently good sense.

"I wish to state that we shall apply responsible policies for the promotion of economic stability which demand that in this budget we address primarily the unacceptably high rate of inflation," said Mr Du Plessis.

"Such stability is a prerequisite not only for the economic growth and well-being we all so ardently desire, but also for the attainment of those enduring goals of security, freedom and self-realisation to which we aspire."

Balance of Payments

MB181127 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1015 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — The current account of the balance of payments registered a deficit of just over R1 billion, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today.

Introducing the budget, Mr Du Plessis said there was a substantial improvement during the year from an annualised deficit of R2.8 billion in the first quarter to an annualised surplus of R906 billion during the fourth quarter.

"For 1985 an overall surplus of at least R1.5 billion is expected.

"Both the actual and the anticipated improvements stem largely from the tightening first of monetary and later of fiscal policies."

On capital account, Mr Du Plessis said, there was a substantial net inflow of long-term capital of R2.7 billion during 1984, of which R880 million represented net purchases by foreigners of securities listed on the Johannesburg stock exchange.

"The result was that the so-called basic balance, that is the current account plus long-term capital movements, showed a surplus of about R1.6 billion net for 1984.

"There was, however, a net outflow of short-term capital of over R3 billion, of which nearly R2 billion was recorded during the fourth quarter alone, which largely took the form of leads and lags in foreign payments and receipts."

Against the background of these balance of payments developments, the rand showed a marked further depreciation during 1984.

From a peak of 0.91 U.S. dollars in September, 1983, it fell to 0.42 on January 21, 1985: a depreciation of 54 percent against the U.S. dollar and of 44 percent against "basket currencies", in which the dollar has a weight of 41 percent, Mr Du Plessis said. "Since then, however, the rand has appreciated by about 14 percent against the dollar, 17 per cent against the over all basket and 20 percent against the non-dollar currencies."

Four main reasons could be adduced for the depreciation of the rand between September 1983 and January 1985, he said.

"The first was the exceptional and unexpected appreciation of the U.S. dollar against virtually all other currencies during this period. This alone would have brought about a considerable depreciation of the rand.

"The second reason was the adverse impact on the rand of lower foreign exchange earnings or increased payments caused by the falling dollar price of gold, the relatively weak world demand for some of our other principle exports, and the drought.

"The third cause was our rate of inflation, which for some time now has been about three times higher than that of our major trading partners.

"More recently we have had to grapple with a fourth cause of the depreciation of the rand, namely the development during the fourth quarter of 1984 and the first three weeks of 1985 of substantial leads and lags."

These, Mr Du Plessis said, assumed particularly large proportions when the dollar suddenly surged upwards again in December, last year, and the gold price once again slumped, giving rise to the expectation that the dollar would appreciate further — as it subsequently did — and that the gold price would continue its fall — as, in fact, it did.

"In these circumstances, many South African exporters delayed the repatriation of their foreign earnings, while many import and other foreign payments were accelerated, thereby bringing about a short-term capital outflow in the form of leads and lags.

"The rapid recovery of the rand after January 21, 1985, and the relative strength it has recently displayed in the face of both the substantial further appreciation of the dollar against major currencies and the accompanying decline in the gold price, stem largely from the growing realisation in the market place that monetary policy is proving effective in curbing spending and changing the balance of payments fundamentals in South Africa's favor."

The rand, Mr Du Plessis said, was further supported by the introduction on January 30 of supplementary measures to alleviate pressure on the spot exchange rate.

These included a tightening of the reserve bank's arrangements for accommodation to banks, and expansion of the banks forward exchange cover facilities and a decision to pay gold mines in dollars for only half of their production, with the balance in rand.

"Given the existence in the world of a system of fluctuating exchange rates and the exceptionally large and unexpected appreciation of the dollar during the past two years, the policy of managed floating of the rand has produced good results.

"It is true that the depreciation stems in part from insufficiently restrictive fiscal and monetary policies and that, inevitably, this has had inflationary consequences."

Managed floating, however, had not been without its benefits, Mr Du Plessis said.

"It has, for example, maintained and even raised the rand value of our principal exports, threby also boosting tax revenues, and it has provided additional protection to many domestic manufacturers.

"It has also helped to retain long-term foreign capital in the country and to attract new foreign investment through the stock exchange and in other ways," he added.

Living Standards Decline

MB181158 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1018 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — A temporary decline in the average standard of living of South Africans had to be accepted as inevitable before the economy improved, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today.

"This burden has to be borne equitably across the widest possible front," he said in his budget speech.

Indications were that real gross domestic expenditure would fall by about four per cent during 1985 and that real gross domestic product would show little improvement on 1984.

"During the past two years, the South African economy has been severely buffeted by an unprecedented and continuing stream of adverse, extraneous developments that has inevitably left us less well-off as a nation than we would otherwise have been."

This had brought about a "painful process" of belt-tightening and adjustments.

"A temporary decline in the average standard of living, before it resumes its upward movement, must therefore be accepted as inevitable," Mr Du Plessis said.

Until about the middle of last year, the response of fiscal and monetary policy to the economic climate had been too slow and lenient, Mr Du Plessis said.

This had permitted total spending to rise at an excessive rate with adverse consequences for inflation and the balance of payments.

However, more resolute application of the government's financial stabilisation policy since mid-1984 had achieved its initial objectives of curbing total spending and transforming a deficit on the current account of the balance of payments into a surplus.

"Despite these policy achievements, the mix of monetary and fiscal policy thus far has not been ideal," Mr Du Plessis said.

"Throughout the past two years, notwithstanding the intended restrictive policy stance, the unduly expansionary results of fiscal policy have meant that monetary policy through this period has had to bear too great a share of the burden of stabilisation."

This had led to high interest rates that had adversely affected many farmers but which had not always been high enough to prevent overspending, inflation and substantial currency depreciation.

Mr Du Plessis said the marked economic upswing which preceded the present downturn had stemmed largely from government and private consumer spending and could not be sustained in the face of unfavourable extraneous developments.

These included a decline in the gold price from a peak of more than 511 dollars an ounce, the drought and the sluggish recovery in world demand for some of South Africa's main non-gold exports.

"The upshot was a weakening of the balance of payments, a substantial depreciation of the rand and increased inflationary pressures.

Mr Du Plessis said tightened fiscal and monetary policies had, together with natural economic forces, brought about the necessary cooling down of the economy from about the middle of 1984.

Real gross domestic expenditure had gone through two distinct phases during 1984. At a seasonally adjusted annual rate, it had risen by 10 per cent during the first half of the year and then fallen by 5.5 per cent in the second, resulting in an average increase of slightly more than six per cent over the whole year.

Private consumption expenditure had risen by eight per cent in the first half of the year and fallen by nine per cent in the second half, giving an average increase of 2.5 per cent for the year.

Government consumption expenditure had increased by 9.5 per cent, while gross domestic fixed investment had declined by 2.5 per cent over the year.

"Present indications are that real gross domestic expenditure will fall further by about four per cent during 1985 and that real gross domestic product will show little increase over 1984," Mr Du Plessis said.

Conditions for Budget

MB181220 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1020 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — If fiscal policy was to pay its full and fair part in overall strategy in the year ahead, today's budget would have to meet as closely as possible three basic conditions, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today.

Introducing his budget to a joint sitting of parliament, Mr Du Plessis said there could firstly be no increase in real terms in government expenditure during the coming year compared to the previous.

Secondly, current expenditure, such as salaries, must not again be financed by borrowed funds, as had happened to an unacceptable extent during the past two years.

"In technical terms, government dissaving must be eliminated and the budget should rather contribute to saving."

Thirdly, the budget deficit before borrowing -- the difference between total expenditure and tax revenue -- had to be restricted to an amount that could be financed by borrowing without either significant resort to bank credit or contributing to any upward pressures on interest rates.

"Under present conditions, this means that the deficit must be kept below three percent of gross domestic product."

Mr Du Plessis said it would become clear that these conditions would be met and that an improved and appropriately restrictive "mix" of fiscal and monetary policy would be applied in the year ahead.

The minister said that in spelling out the strategy for the year ahead, he would not attempt to set precise quantitative targets by year-end for the inflation rate, the growth rate, the exchange rate, interest rates and a number of other economic variables, as some commentators would have him do.

"I believe no government in a free market economy can do this with a degree of accuracy that can assist planners in a meaningful way, particularly not in a world of volatile exchange rates, interests rates and commodity prices.

"These variables affect relatively small and open economies such as ours much more severely than their larger, more mature counterparts elsewhere.

"To give just one example: a rise or fall of 50 dollars in the gold price, which could occur at any time, would immediately exert a material influence on financial conditions and call for rapid monetary policy adjustments, resulting in inevitable, albeit desirable, changes in, for example, interest and exchange rates"

Independently set targets would more often than not in the short run also be mutually inconsistent and therefore incapable of simultaneous attainment.

"There is, for example, such a close interrelationship between the money supply, the level of interest rates and the exchange rate that a meaningful target can be set for only one of these variables, after which the other two will adjust to their own levels.

"What we can and shall do, however, is to set out in detail our fiscal and monetary policy framework, including our ultimate and intermediate objectives and priorities, the policy instruments to achieve them, and the broad time scales we envisage for these policies to bear fruit."

The minister said policy implications for the year ahead were very clear.

Basically the situation called for an effective and not a notional continuation of the economic strategy of curbing the expansion of total spending in the economy by means of monetary and fiscal measures in accordance with the government's declared aim of promoting private enterprise and effective competition.

"There is an essential need to add more fiscal policy to the overall policy mix."

They recent confluence of national and international events had made today's budget one of the most important in the economic history of South Africa.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the key to the stability and growth of the South African economy in the period immediately ahead lies in the decisions taken at this juncture regarding government spending, taxation and public debt management and in the reaction to and perceptions of our efforts in this field."

In the long term, no fundamental conflicts or "trade-offs" were seen between the goals of price stability, balance of payments equilibrium, stable and high growth and low unemployment.

"But short term conflicts do exist and then policy priorities must be determined.

"At the moment, for example, priority must be accorded to counteracting inflation and strengthening the balance of payments, the exchange rate and the net gold and other foreign reserves.

"Great importance continues to be attached to the objectives of growth and employment.

"It is my conviction that the best way to achieve these aims in the longer term is first to curb inflation and to strengthen the balance of payments.

"But, special attention will have to be given to the amelioratoin of the effects of unemployment", the minister said.

Long-Term Strategy

MB181234 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, today announced the government's long term financial strategy and said agreement had already been reached on three qurters of total budgetary expenditures to the year 1990/91.

Delivering his first budget speech, he said it was important to view the budget also in the context of the government's longer term fiscal and monetary policy.

"This is particularly necessary at this juncture because today's budget is in more ways than one a special budget designed to deal with a special set of circumstances," he said. It was not representative of the official longer term financial strategy.

The main goals of this strategy was a higher and sustainable rate of real economic growth and the creation of adequate employment opportunities on the basis of reasonable price stability and a sound balance of payments.

The South African economy had the potential for rapid and sustainable growth and the government was committed to realising this potential.

The major concern was that the achievement of an average annual growth rate of 3.6 per cent until the end of the decade, as envisaged by the 1979 economic development programme, still left the country with a structural unemployment problem.

"Special measures to deal with this issue are therefore called for," Mr Du Plessis said.

The strategy to achieve the long term goals was based on the following financial principles:

— All expenditure, current and capital, for which the exchequer assumed responsibility had to be brought back on the central government's budget. (This excluded state business enterprises such as SA [South African] Transport Services and post and telecommunication);

— Total public sector spending in relation to gross domestic product, which in the past three years increased from 35 to 37 per cent, must be returned to 1981 levels by the end of the decade;

— In future the deficit before borrowing should not exceed three per cent of the gross domestic product, barring highly unusual circumstances;

— Public sector deficits should be financed in a way which would help achieve money supply target rates set by the monetary authorities.

"As regards the second and third of these goals, the state president's committee on national priorites has already discussed in depth preliminary guidelines for growth in public sector spending until 1990/91," the minister said.

This included general government, state business enterprises and public corporations, as well as guidelines for the increase in central government budgetary totals.

"In the case of the central government budget, preliminary targets have been agreed upon for nearly three-quarters of our total budgetary expenditures."

The commission of inquiry into the monetary system and monetary policy in South Africa had made an intensive study of the feasibility and desirability under local conditions of setting and announcing target ranges of growth for monetary aggregates such as M1, M2, and M3. Its final report was expected in two months and if its recommendations proved acceptable, no time would be lost in implementing them.

The further lines of action for longer term strategy were:

— The government aimed to consider revising certain figures of the present tax system that will serve to strengthen fiscal incentives and to enhance productive effort and productivity, saving, investment, risk-taking and innovation;

— The government would seek to ease further the remaining rigidity of the labour market; to promote the education and training of various segments of the labour force; and to foster the geographical and occupational mobility of the country's labour resource.

Defense Spending

MB181247 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1237 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — As a result of stringent economising, expenditure on defence would increase by only 8.1 per cent over the amount voted last year, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said during his budget speech today.

He said the point that South Africa cannot, in the foreseeable future, do without a strong defence capability needed no stressing.

"However, the notion prevalent in certain circles that defence expenditure is claiming an ever-growing proportion of the budget is simply not true, since its share has hovered around 15 to 16 per cent of total state expenditure for many years now.

"As a result of stringent economising — for which I am very grateful to my colleague, the minister of defence — I am able to propose an allocation of R4,274 million for this vote — only 8.1 per cent over the amount voted for 1984/5. More importantly, we should note that defence's share in the total budget, far from increasing, will actually fall marginally from 14 per cent in 1984/5 to 13.8 per cent in 1985/86", the minister said.

Spending To Exceed Revenue

MB181317 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1506 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — On the basis of current taxation, total revenue for 1985-86 was expected to increase by R2,750 million (11.5 per cent) to R26,585 million, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today. Expenditure for the coming year was estimated at R30,728 million, he said.

Delivering his first budget speech at a joint session of parliament he said all major revenue sources were expected to show increases, not withstanding low levels of economic activity.

"Inland Revenue collections are expected to increase by R2,785 million or 12.7 per cent to R24,705 million," he said.

Revenue from gold mines was estimated at R2,350 millioni — a 16 per cent rise — from non-mining companies R4,250 million, individuals R8,950 million (an increase of R1,110 million or 14.2 per cent) and general sales tax R7,100 million, R1,205 million above the 1984-85 figure.

Net customs and excise revenue might fall for the first time in recent history, by some 1.8 per cent to R1,880 million, even though a rise of as much as 7.7 per cent to R1,475 million was expected in customs duty alone.

The fall in customs and excise duties could be attributed mainly to the growth in customs union payments.

Initial expenditure requests by government deparmments had exceeded R34,000 million.

This had represented the departments "legitimate albeit somewhat idealistic assessment of what they needed to fulfill their obligations.

"It took several rounds of detailed and serious negotiations from July last year up to very recently to arrive at the current figure," Mr Du Plessis said.

The printed estimate of expenditure he was tabling reflected a figure of R31,145 million but this had been reduced by R417 million, which represented that portion of the nearly R500 million saving on personnel-related costs recently announced by the state president and which could not be reflected in the printed estimate.

There were also structural changes whereby several expenditure items that in previous years had been financed off-budget were now being financed on-budget.

These changes had added R599 million to next year's budget and there were still a number of off-budget expenditure items that would have to be brought on-budget in the year after next.

This was part of the government's new long-term strategy and he hoped by then to have provided for all expenditure emanating from parastatal and other bodies that could legitimately be regarded as forming a charge on the exchequer.

This year's new on-budget inclusions affected the Atomic Energy Corporation, National Housing Commission, South-West Africa, tax payments collected on behalf of independent states and certain defence expenditures.

"From the present on-budget items only SOEKOR [Southern Oil Exploration Company] financing will be done off-budget via the Strategic Energy Fund, where it belongs," the minister said.

Funds for Unemployment Relief

MB181340 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1151 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — One hundred million rand would be set aside for the continuation and extension of short-term work creation and relief programmes where severe unemployment was being experienced, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today.

Introducing his 1985/86 budget at a joint sitting of all three houses, he said the government was aware of the increase in unemployment caused by the downturn in economic activity and was addressing the question on a broad front.

This was in line with the white paper on strategy for job creation tabled in Parliament last year.

"A package has been devised for short-term relief, including special employment opportunities provided by public bodies and for which 27.5 million was made available in previous financial years, payment of unemployment benefits of nearly R105 million in 1984, and free training, at a cost of nearly R4 million, for 9,250 workseekers.

"For 1985/86, R100 million will be set aside for the continuation and extension of short-term work creation and relief programmes in those regions and areas experiencing severe unemployment," Mr Du Plessis said.

In launching these programmes, the public bodies involved would take due note of regional differences and regional development strategies.

General Sales Tax Increase

MB181403 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1400 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — General sales tax is to rise to 12 per cent on March 25, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, announced today.

Introducing the budget, he said this should yield an additional R1.220 million for 1985/86.

The government had decided to implement the increase on March 25 to allow the business community a reasonable period within which to prepare for the change.

"I must mention that the numerous requests for further exemptions of particular food items have all been reviewed in depth, but that it has regrettably not been possible to extend the list of existing exemptions."

Sales tax, Mr Du Plessis said, was a recognised form of indirect taxation, and to meet the country's fiscal requirements the government had to turn to this source as well.

Additional Taxes Required

MB181546 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1529 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] Parliament, March 18, SAPA — There was no alternative but to seek additional revenue by proposing further taxes, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plesis, said today in his budget speech.

Customs and excise duty on imported cars, video cassette recorders, office machinery and certain electronic devices would be increased with immediate effect.

Excise duty on locally produced petrol from coal will be raised to match that on imported fuel, but the pump price would remain unchanged.

"In doing so we are fully aware of the disadvantages of increasing taxes when the economy is in a downward phase.

"However, having done everything in our power to cut expenditure to the bare minimum, our next best option is to finance such expenditure in a sound and responsible manner," Mr Du Plessis told a joint sitting of all three houses of parliament.

"This approach will contribute towards getting our economy in shape again and will materially advance the date when sound economic growth can be resumed. It is impossible to overemphasise the truism that taxation should not be seen as a punitive measure, but to finance the functions and services that benefit the community at large."

On imported cars, Mr Du Plessis said those imported in a built-up condition currently attracted customs duty of 100 per cent.

There had been a substantial increase in imports of such cars in recent times, due mainly to the relaxation of import control but no doubt also aided by the favourable treatment of fringe benefits.

"As these cars fall very largely into the luxury class, I propose that the customs be increased to 125 per cent."

This could also help the sales of locally produced cars and the additional revenue for 1985/86 from imported cars was estimated at R10 million.

Although relatively modest at first, sales of video cassette recorders had risen very sharply in recent years and contributed to a further drain on the already stretched current account of the balance of payments without making a significant contribution to revenues, Mr Du Plessis said.

"In these circumstances, I propose, for fiscal purposes, that the ordinary customs duty of 10 per cent be increased to 15 per cent, in addition to the ad valorum excise duty of 35 per cent applicable now.

"This should yield some R5 million in 1985/86," he said.

An estimated R100 million would be obtained from a proposed ad volorem excise duty and an ad valorem customs duty of 10 per cent on office machines and certain electronic devices, as defined in the taxation proposals.

"All increases in customs and excise duties take effect immediately and apply to all goods that have not yet been cleared for home consumption, that is, goods not yet removed from the storage warehouses and premises of manufacturers licensed with the commissioner for customs and excise."

Mr Du Plessis siad that since all the increased duties were levied at the point of import or manufacture, there was "no justification whatsoever" for merchants to increase the price of stocks inventoried to them at the old rates of duty.

"In the present economic climate I therefore rely on such merchants to adjust their prices only on new stocks.

"Consumers should expect and insist that the retail prices of all goods concerned should not be raised by more than the increase in duty."

In total, the higher customs and excise duties proposed should yield R141 million in 1985/86.

Johannesburg: Austerity Budget Not Surprising

MB200941 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "South Africa's Budget"]

[Text] It was not suprising in the current economic climate that South Africa's minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, should have tabled an austerity budget. The budget as a whole is designed to keep down government spending except in two vital areas. Education has been allocated 19 percent more than last year, while estimates of expenditure in the general category of development will go up by 26 percent.

These are the main components of a program of social and individual development that must provide the enduring foundation for stability, prosperity, and self-determination. There are no instant solutions for achieving that goal. South Africa's ability to resolve conflicting demands among its peoples and to provide materially for the legitimate claims they make on its resources cannot be secured by (?further) financial juggling or ambitious social engineering in the sphere of government. Success will depend entirely on the people. It will depend on the ability of the individual to realize in every way his own potential and, in doing so, to develop and enrich the community as a whole.

South Africa has not the means to limit its dangerously mushrooming population through official action. The state cannot even contemplate trying to find the mind-boggling sum that will have to be spent on housing in the next 20 years. Government sponsored job creation programs, praiseworthy though they are as emergency measures, cause hardly a ripple on the surface of the rising pool of job seekers. State paternalism does not work. The only viable cause is to ensure that all the country's people have the same opportunities to equip themselves educationally and to take advantage of economic opportunities so that all may accept full responsibility for having to put into their lives what they hope to get out. Progress on that course will be directly proportional to the progress made in the socioeconomic development initiatives.

Nel Says Disinvestment 'Deed of Violence' to Blacks

MB200802 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The South African deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, say disinvestment is a deed of violence against blacks in South Africa and cannot be tolerated. He was speaking in the Colored House of Representatives in Cape Town.

Mr Nel said the United States [as heard] had an overall objective to bring about (?total) sanctions. When their policy of mandatory sanctions failed, they needed to change their plan, he said. Mr Nel said the motive of disinvestors was not to reform South Africa, but to destroy it completely. He also said we will solve our own problems because we have the good will to do so.

Mr Nel added industrial development was the most important kind of development. For each job created, more than two jobs were created. He said disinvestors forgot that South Africa did not have a welfare system. When a black man lost his job he did not go on the dole. He would go hungry, and that was a dangerous situation.

Buthelezi Says P.W. Botha Can Win Black Support
MB190722 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The chief minister of kwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, says the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, is the only man who can bring meaningful reform to South Africa if he moves quickly in implementing his intentions regarding change.

Chief Buthelezi told a meeting at Ulundi that Mr Botha's changes were not straight and to the point, but neither were they cosmetic. He said that Mr Botha had many Afrikaans and English followers, and he stood a good chance of winning the support of blacks as well if he allowed blacks to take part in decisionmaking in South Africa.

Electrified Border Fence To Be Complete by End March
MB192009 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The Defense Force project to erect an electrified fence and a wall along the northern border of South Africa between Beit Bridge and Sand River will be completed by the end of this month.

The deputy minister of defense, Mr Adrian Vlok, said in reply to a question in Parliament that the electrified fence and wall were part of an experiment with barriers, which would facilitate improved border control. The cost of the project was 2.5 million rands.

Mr Vlok said the South African trade mission in Harare had informed the Zimbabwean Government of the erection of the fence and that the government of that country had indicated it had taken note of the fence. Warning signs would be erected at 50-meter intervals along the fence.

Paper: White's Power Rests on Ability To Adapt
MB180902 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 12 Mar 85 p 12

[Editorial: "The Choice Is Ours"]

[Text] In his argument for the continuation of America's policy of constructive engagement in South Africa, published in the influential *FOREIGN POLICY* of the Carnegie Foundation, Mr Herman Nickel, the American ambassador to South Africa, makes the observation that the whites will set the pace of change in South Africa at least until the year 2000.

Seen from a South African point of view, it is a depressing thought that in those circles there is even speculation about the possibility that the whites could lose the initiative to govern in a bare 15 years.

Naturally, Mr Nickel's time scale does not coincide with that set by white South Africans themselves. For that matter, there are people who believe the status quo can be maintained by clinging steadfastly to the approaches used decades ago.

Nevertheless, there is a very real danger that the whites could indeed lose the initiative in this country -- perhaps even earlier than Mr Nickel's projection forecasts. It is equally true that white South Africans can so entrench their part in the country's administration that their authority will never be called into dispute.

The choice in this regard rests with the whites themselves, by their ability to adjust to changing circumstances and initiate change without allowing proper order to be jeopardized, and to reach out for the sake of a common interest.

Because noone will dispute that in the midst of differences among the whites, in the midst of fraternal conflict, there remains the common interest of survival, and of keeping the flame of civilization alight here.

South Africa is vulnerable at present. First, because division has been allowed to take root among the whites to such an extent that there can be no talk of a united front among them those who have the task of defending the last bastion of Christian civilization in Africa. This division cuts through the spectrum of politics and culture to the very heart of the church. It is a self-detructive divisiveness that could make the depressing projections of the year 2000 a reality.

Secondly, the country is vulnerable because an accumulation of economic circumstances has forced the country to its knees. Those who aim at totally crippling the country economically should know — if they have not already thought about it in this light — that they are helping to bury the right to self-determination of the whites. Stability and the whites' ability to survive go hand in hand in South Africa.

New Structure for Ties With Self-Governing States

MB151135 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0952 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Giyani, March 15, SAPA — A new structure to promote cooperation between South Africa and the six self-governing national states is to be created, the deputy minister of education and cooperation, Mr Sam de Beer, announced today.

Speaking at the official opening of the third session of the Gazankulu legislative assembly, he said the structure — called the dispensation for collective cooperation — was born of a strong need for cooperation on a broader basis. The new body would deal with matters on a multilateral basis and would be similar to the one set up for South Africa and the independent national states.

Mr De Beer said independence for the self-governing states would continue to be the government's goal and cooperation would take place increasingly within collective structures.

The government had acknowledged the permanence of blacks living outside the national states and the need for black local authorities to participate at higher levels. Furthermore, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, had announced his intention to speed up resolution of the "citizenship question."

Inevitably, this multiplicity of institutions and functions had brought problems of coordination, and the solution appeared to cooperation on a multilateral rather than bilateral level.

While the new structure would not have executive powers, it would have the right to make recommendations to the various governments for consideration and implementation. Tentative guidelines would be sent out to the various governments "very soon," Mr De Beer said.

Decision-making powers of governments would not be affected. They would be able to accept or reject recommendations of the collective dispensation.

The principles underlying the proposed structure will be:

— The social and economic development of South Africa and the self-governing states in interdependence with one another;

— Acknowledgement of the autonomy of each participating state;

— Acknowledgement of the fact that many matters are of common interest and that it is in the best interests of the states to adopt a common approach to these matters;

— Collective liaison to supplement bilateral contact and not to replace it;

— The liaison process must take account of the reality that economic development transcends political boundaries.

Mr De Beer said he proposed that the dispensation should operate under the leadership of the South African Government with the six states enjoying equal status.

Johannesburg Cites TV Program on Nation's Policies

R.F. Botha-Tutu Debate

MB191616 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, Bishop Desmond Tutu, have agree in a debate on American television that change in South Africa needs to come about by negotiation.

In the ABC program Nightline, which was transmitted by satellite out of Johannesburg, Mr Botha and Bishop Tutu described what was taking place, and needed to take place, in South Africa, as they saw it.

Mr Botha argued that the government was engaged in a dialogue with moderate black leaders to bring about reform in South Africa. He said international pressure would serve only to retard the process of reform.

Bishop Tutu put forward the view that pressure from the rest of the world was necessary to promote change in South Africa. The only other ways of bringing about change, he said, were by the vote — which blacks did not have — or violence, which most blacks avoided.

He called for a national convention in which the government sat around a table with the authentic leaders of the black people who in the black community, he said, were people like Nelson Mandela.

Mr Botha pointed out that Nelson Mandela was free to leave prison if he renounced violence and that the government would talk to any leader who abandoned violence as a means of achieve political ends.

The thrust of Bishop Tutu's argument was that he was an alien without a vote in his own country and the victime of a repressive system. His goal was to achieve a fully democratic system in South Africa, which ultimately meant one man, one vote.

Mr Botha made the point that the government was giving urgent attention to the issues of black citizenship and the constitutional role of black people. He acknowledged that South Africa was concerned about international pressures being placed on it, pressures which he regarded as counterproductive.

Mr Botha said South Africa was being subjected to selective morality. What other African state, he asked, would permit the kind of criticism of government which took place in South Africa.

The program's host, Mr Ted Koppel, remarked that he had been struck by the robust debate taking place in the country.

The program was the first of five which deal with events in South Africa and are being transmitted nightly in the United States.

Viljoen on Black Resettlement

MB200846 Johannesburg International in English
0630 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The South African Government has recognized that there is an urgent need for the revision of statutory offenses arising from the application of the so-called pass laws and legislation on influx control.

In the ABC television news program Nightline, the South African minister of cooperation, development, and education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, conceded that aspects of current legislation were not consistent with the humane treatment of people, but he added the legislation could not simply be scrapped because of a tendency for a large scale movement from the heavily populated rural areas into the towns.

Dr Viljoen said the government was moving away from the discriminatory aspects of influx control towards a policy based on the principles of available employment and housing.

He said the government was committed to a 3-legged policy of orderly expanded urbanization: firstly in the exisiting metropolitan areas, secondly in decentralized areas now under development, and thirdly within the national states.

He said the government recognized the need for reform in the areas of influx control, resettlement, and citizenship.

All decisions about the removal of people from so-called black spots have been suspended. They were being reviewed by the government and discussed with the people concerned.

Dr Viljoen's assertions about the means and goals of the government's resettlement policy were rejected by the other two guests in the program, the president of an antigovernment women's organization, the Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan, and a radical black leader, Dr Nthato Motlana.

They disputed that removals had been carried out with the agreement of the people concerned, or that the communities enjoyed a higher quality of life in their new areas.

Mrs Duncan said the fault in applying influx control measures according to available housing lay in the deliberate limitation of housing as in influx control tool. She said there was no evidence that the government intended to provide more land for housing in existing black urban areas.

Dr Motlana said the policy of influx control was destroying settled communities. He rejected Dr Viljoen's explanation of government policy, and said the government was intent on simply moving large numbers of black people from designated white areas inside the borders of black national states.

The program, which dealt with the government's resettlement policy, was the second of five being transmitted by satellite to the United States this week for immediate screening.

Program Shows Country's Freedom

MB191758 Johannesburg International Service in English
1500 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "Freedom in South Africa"]

[Text] The extent of freedom of information from South Africa is being dramatically illustrated this week in the United States, where ABC television is screening a series of programs on conditions in this country. A feature of the programs is that South African Government officials are seen in debate with committed opponents of the government.

So far, the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, has been involved in a controversial discussion with Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu, and similar debates are to follow.

This should come as an eye-opener to South Africa's critics, indicating, as it does, a willingness on the part of this country to permit international scrutiny of what is happening here. How many countries in the world are there that would permit similar programs to be done on their internal situation?

South Africans readily admit that conditions in this country are not perfect, but at the same time they willingly allow others into the country to see for themselves how complex the situation is. This openness does not always carry with it positive rewards. Frequently, only the sensational is reported, projecting negative and simplistic views.

Even Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, a sworn opponent of the government but a man committed to peaceful and negotiated change, has complained that foreign correspondents distort what he has to say.

Nevertheless, South Africa has doggedly continued to keep itself open to investigation by virtually all and sundry, even if this means that she is frequently maligned in the process.

The overriding hope is that, in this way, the world will at least get some insight into the complexity of the situation facing this country and realize that very real progress is being made towards bringing about change.

The problem is that much of the external attitudes towards South Africa and the external pressure brought to bear on this country are influenced by sensational reporting done here.

Few, indeed, are the reports indicating the situation of black people in South Africa, compared with those in other African states — their higher educational achievements, superior training, and the fact that they enjoy the highest standards of living in Africa.

South Africans are not ashamed of their country. It is not surrounded by iron, bamboo, or other curtains, and that in itself should give food for thought to the international community.

Ciskei To Intervene in Eastern Cape Unrest

MB171143 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 17 Mar 85

[Text] The Ciskei government is to intervene in unrest affecting some of its major towns. Frans Kruger has the details:

[Begin recording] Chief Lent Maqoma, formerly Ciskei's minister of manpower utilization, has been ordered to leave all other functions and concentrate on squashing the unrest among his people. The word has come from the Qoqo, a traditional advisory body to Ciskei's President Lennox Sebe. Maqoma is traditional chief of the area around Fort Beaufort. He was (?ousted) from his position as a minister in a cabinet reshuffle in January this year.

The Qoqo also attacked another former cabinet minister, L.M. Fani, now chairperson in the Fort Beaufort Parents' Committee, and said he was not acting in the tribe's interests.

Fani rejected the charges today, however, and questioned the Ciskei's right to involve itself in a matter in South Africa. He said it remained to be seen what Maqoma would do, but the chief should recognize there were genuine student grievances in Fort Beaufort, which needed to be attended to before the unrest would end. [end recording]

Meanwhile, eastern Cape townships are reported to be in the grip of continued unrest. The South African Broadcasting Corporation reports that houses and vehicles in several townships have been destroyed. Six men are said to have been arrested in Fort Beaufort in connection with charges of public violence and arson. Reports also say that there have been incidents of violence in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, but no details are given. Township residents in Port Elizabeth are observing a 3-day boycott of shops and buses in protest against recent price hikes. The call was made by the local civic organization and includes a work stay-away tomorrow.

Transkei Police Storm Township in 'Routine' Action

MB151027 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] Transkei police and security forces have raided the Ikhwezi Township near Umtata. Armed police and members of the Transkei Defense Force stormed the township at dawn this morning. The door-to-door search lasted 5 hours. The raid has been described officially as an ordinary police routine check-up.

The deputy commissioner of police, Lieutenant General Mantanga, says he cannot give details of the raid until he has received full reports.

UDF Members Refused Bail on Treason Charges

MB151603 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] A regional magistrate in Durban has refused bail to eight leading members of the United Democratic Front [UDF], which groups a number of organizations opposed to the internal policies of the South African Government. The eight are facing charges of treason.

Among the eight are the president of the UDF, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, and the national chairman of the organization, Mr Thozamile Gqweta. Sixteen people are presently facing treason charges in South Africa.

UDF To Press for Release

MB191446 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The United Democratic Front [UDF] is to intensify its campaign for the release of 16 treason trialists. At a news conference in Durban today, the UDF publicity secretary for Natal, (Lechida Tsenedi), says the campaign will be waged both locally and abroad.

[Begin (Tsenedi) recording] The decision by the state to refuse bail is just a camouflaged form of detention without trial. All of them are their families' chief bread winners, and their families are already suffering great financial hardship, not to mention the emotional hardship of being separated from their families and children.

About half of them are self-employed doctors and lawyers and, because they have been in jail for so long, their practices are collapsing. For example, the Natal president, Archie Gumede's, practice has already closed. Their continued detention is a way of harassing the UDF and cracking down on extraparliamentary opposition. [end recording]

African National Congress Opens Office in Denmark

PM181104 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 14 Mar 85 p 6

[Jorgen Siegumfeldt report: "ANC Opens Bureau in Copenhagen"]

[Excerpt] The ANC, the antiapartheid organization banned in South Africa, yesterday opened its 32d foreign information bureau — in Copenhagen.

At a press conference, the ANC's new permanent representative, Aaron Mnisi, said that the official reason for opening a bureau in Denmark is to try to change the "moral" support that exists in Denmark for the struggle against the apartheid regime into "concrete" support. Against the background of today's debate in the Folketing on a bill outlawing Danish investments in South Africa, he stressed the importance of an economic boycott of official South Africa.

SWAZILAND

Pastoral Letter Deplores 'Violence of Power'

MB191008 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 19 Mar 85 pp 5, 6

[Text] The Anglican Bishop of Swaziland the Right Reverend Bernard Mkhabela and the Right Reverend Louis Ncamiso Ndlovu, an apostolic administrator of the Dioces of Manzini, have delivered a joint pastoral letter to all Christians of the Anglican and Catholic communities and to all men of good will in Swaziland last Sunday.

The message reads as follows:

"At Christmas, we looked with renewed wonder at God's coming among us as a man, bringing justice, peace and love to mankind. Just recently, we have begun a New Year 1985 with high hopes for the realisation of peace and development for Swaziland and the whole continent of Africa in today's world.

"This is, moreover, the Year of Youth and we want them, especially those youth who, at the completion of their schooling, are now searching to build their own lives as part of the Swazi nation, to have confidence in the future and set about building peace in society themselves.

"Swaziland is not at war, yet this 'peace' is not a tranquil one, and we are concerned about the increase of violence which has characterised 1984, and which has drawn the attention of the world's Press. Weapons of war have been used in the streets of our towns, and among the houses of our people, bringing death, fear and anxiety. Robbery with violence has been on the increase, making it unsafe to use certain paths and roads, especially after dark. To say that this is the way the world is going, and that Swaziland cannot expect to be immune, is to give way to a very unchristian fatalism.

"Violence has become a grave problem in Swaziland. The future of our country cannot be left to the impulse of emotion and passion. We would be failing in our pastoral duty, if we were not to remind everyone of the criteria put before us by the christian doctrine of evangelical love.

"As the appointed leaders of christian communities, we wish to speak to our people, and to all men of good will. Indeed, we are deeply pained by this growth of violence on all sides, and make an appeal to all, the leaders and citizens of Swaziland, to be aware of the danger of allowing this to continue, and to realise the urgency there is to seek out its causes honestly, and apply the necessary remedies with the cooperation of all. Peace is not simply law and order.

"The violence that we have been seeing and experiencing, and that has made headlines in the newspapers, is not the only kind of violence. This visible violence is, in some ways, but the symptom of the less visible violence, which exists in our society, or is exerted on it. We are concerned about this hidden violence, which does not always get the attention it needs.

"It is to be found in various forms. We are thinking of the violence, which dictates how we are to deal with refugees, the violence of unemployment, the violence of preferential treatment for some, and the violence of detention without trial.

"The peace we speak of is not peace at any price. It is not simply law and order, for the violence of power can effectively stiffle revolt against injustice. Nor is peace to be equated with an unwholesome exaggerated nationalism, which can replace respect for human dignity of the individual person. "It is important to realise what it is, that makes peace so precarious and fragile. We cannot promote peace simply by deploring the evils of the situation. What is necessary is that we look into the root causes of violence in our time.

"These cause are to be found especially in the ideologies that have invaded the southern region of Africa. Swaziland finds itself between two completely opposed political ideologies, both of which deal roughly with known dignity and liberty, whenever these are judged to threaten the so called good or security of the state. In fact, recent violence is, in part, an overflow of violence from our neighbours. The ideologies have been allowed to affect our own political, social and economic systems.

"In spite of the explanations that have been given from time to time, the rapidity of changes made, and shifts or power in governing the country, without the participation or involvement of the majority of the nation, has given rise to feelings of perplexity, and uncertainty as to the future of what society holds for the coming generation.

"Then again, we share the concern of those who are aware of the severely deleterious effects that detention without trial has on a person. Let anyone accused of a misdemeanour be brought to court as soon as possible.

"We believe that when in has been shown in a court of law, that a person has indeed misused his rights, he may be rightfully restrained. We do not accept that the basic right of an individual to liberty can be arbitrarily withdrawn in the name of state security.

"There is a small section of our society which can afford to increase its purchases of luxuries imported into Swaziland from the industrial world, while the majority experience increasing unemployment in the towns, and ever greater difficulty in having access to the financial means and modern technology required for agricultural progress in the rural area. Such affluence is an affront to those in grat need.

"Ideologies are not the only cause. Violence and unjustice have deep roots in the hearts of individuals, and in the way people behave towards one another. We have only to think of the divisions within families, and the conflicts in professional life, in places of employment, schools and university.

"We have only to think of those who have clearly lost their respect for human life, who can gain their livelihood with a knife or gun, or who plan their families with the death of the weakest and most defenceless of human beings.

"Swaziland cannot be better than its citizens, and the violence of individuals produces a mentality and public opinion which condones violence in the structures of our society. The condition for realising peace is human behaviour in every dimension of existence.

"Centuries before Christ, the prophet Isaiah shows how lasting and unchanging are the desires of individuals and peoples:

— "There will be poured on us the spirit from above...

"Integrity will bring peace, justice give lasting security.

"My people will live in a peaceful home, in safe houses, in quiet dwellings." (Isaiah 32:15, 17-18)

"And after Christ, the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians:

— "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you have learned from me or have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:7-9).

"There are three factors, which characterise the Christian concept of peace, which we place before you now for your consideration and reflection.

"Peace is above all a work of justice. Peace comes from a just order in society, where people can fulfill themselves, where their human dignity is respected, their legitimate hopes satisfied, and their personal freedom guaranteed.

"This requires an ordering of society where the person is not an object, but the agent of his or her own destiny. Peace cannot exist where there are unjust inequalities. Peace, as we have already indicated, must never be equated with the simple absence of bloodshed, for the violence of power can maintain law and order, while sowing the seeds of rebellion. Peace is a permanent task.

"Tranquility of order is neither passivity nor conformity. It is the result of continuous effort and adaptation to new circumstances. Peace is not found, it is built, and the christian man must be the artisan of peace. All christians must resist personal and collective injustice with unselfish courage and fearlessness. Peace is the fruit of love. Peace is the expression of true fraternity among men, a fraternity given by Christ, the Prince of Peace, in reconciling all men with the father.

"Human solidarity cannot fully take effect, unless it is done in Christ, who gives a peace that the world cannot give. Love is the soul of justice. No one should be surprised, if we forcefully reaffirm our faith in the productiveness of peace. The christian man is peaceful, and not ashamed of it. He is not simply a pacifist, but he prefers peace to violence. He also believes that justice is a prerequisite for peace.

"We address ourselves to those who have a greater share of wealth, culture and power. We urge you not to oppose the changes needed for true development by jealously protecting your present privileges.

"We appeal to those who would resort to violence of any kind, to hear the christian call for peace, and turn away from hatred and violence, and turn your energies to constructive work.

"We ask all men of good will to act with justice and kindness in their own circumstances, with their immediate neighbours, with refugees, and with any whose human dignity is threatened by their situation.

"We hope that what we have said and the suggestions we have made, be heard especially by the young people of Swaziland, who must make the right decisions about their own future, and who will determine the prospects for peace, not only in 1985, but in the years to come."

ZAMBIA

TIMES OF ZAMBIA Views Swazi Trade Ties With RSA

MB151104 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 28 Feb 85 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Swaziland has become the second country after Malawi to establish formal trade links with racist South Africa. Whether she stands to benefit from the new deal only time will tell.

But Swaziland is an independent sovereign state and her decisions must be respected by her friends and foes alike. It must be appreciated that the tiny kingdom is almost completely surrounded by South Africa.

Given Swaziland's geographical position, Mbabane has probably been forced by "circumstances beyond her control" to sign the accord with Pretoria. Unlike the non-aggression treaty signed secretly between the two countries in 1982, the trade pact, which South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha first talked about last December, has been done publicly.

The disclosure yesterday by the South African foreign minister and his Swazi counterpart Mhambi Mnisi that the two countries had decided to go ahead with the deal must have cheered many people.

What was perhaps most interesting was the admission by Mr Botha that South Africans, both "White and black must change." Peoples of the world have always wanted the hardcore white South African to come out of his shell and see the writing on the wall. Change is inevitable.

We have hope Mr Botha's statement is representative of the mood of all white South Africans who are essentially the stumbling block to peaceful change in the sub-continent.

It will therefore be a sad day if Swaziland will one day wake up only to discover that February 27 Accord (or is it the Mbabane Accord?) was clinched only as way of ensuring that the African National Congress cadres who were thrown out last year are not allowed sanctuary to launch sorties into South Africa from Swazi territory.

The world has not yet recovered from the shocks of the Nkomati Accord signed between South Africa and Mozambique last March. The agreement was to put an end effectively to the activities of the Mozambican National Resistance rebels who have been battling the government in Maputo.

But despite the signing of the accord, rebel incursions into Mozambique by the South African-backed rebels have continued unabated.

If the Swaziland accord has been signed as another way of effectively keeping ANC nationalists at bay then the Mbabane Accord must be dismissed as the big farce that it really is; and Swazis must be ready to write the epitaph.

ZIMBABWE

ZANU-PF Official Calls on ZAPU To Avoid Violence

MB191833 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The ZANU-PF chairman for Manicaland Province, Comrade Edgar Tekere, has called on ZAPU supporters to refrain from actions which provoke violence. Comrade Tekere said this today when he met a ZAPU delegation led by Mrs (Ruth Chinamano) at his Mutare residence. The delegation presented a statement to Comrade Tekere asking him to ensure that where ever demonstrations occur in Manicaland, they are not violent. The ZANU-PF chairman said the police, the Mutare City Council, and the ruling party are doing everything possible to ensure that peace returns to the city.

Following an outbreak of interparty violence in Sakuva at the weekend, Comrade Tekere yesterday called for an immediate end to violent demonstrations, saying if they occur, the law must take its course. He said although people are free to demonstrate, they should not resort to violence.

Students Protest Pressure To Join UANC Party

MB191841 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] More than 1,500 students of (Morera) secondary and primary schools have threatened to leave their schools in protest against what they say are measures exerted upon them to join the UANC [United African National Councill] Party.

The students allege that some school authorities, who include the deputy headmaster of the secondary school, Mr (Chitunga), and the headmaster of the primary school, Mr (Chibiya), are forcing the students to join the UANC Party.

The students have already removed property from the houses of those responsible for the coercion.

Last week a similar demonstration was staged, and the minister of education, Comrade Dzingai Mutumbuka, had to visit the mission schools.

Radio Truth Says Army Props Up ZANU-PF Regime

MB181745 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] We thought we had got rid of most of the North Korean influence. It was totally unwanted in the first place. However, this Soviet proxy seems determined to revive unhappy memories. They have presented our Army with 20 armored personnel carriers. In acknowledging the gift, the prime minister boasted that we would soon have the strongest armed forces in southern Africa. In relation to our population density, we already have a disproportionate number of men under arms. At a time when money is desperately needed for so many other worthy projects, why do we have to be burdened with the enormous cost of a bigger Army? There is no external threat to our sovereignty, no dragon breathing fire down our neck. All our neighbors are far too preoccupied with their own internal problems to cast any covetous eyes on Zimbabwe.

In attempting to justify our bloated military machine, Mr Mugabe referred once again to the dissidents in Matabeleland and said they would have to be eliminated from our society. What is the size of that threat? The [words indistinct] time and time again that the situation in the province is well under control. On their own admission, only a handfull of hard-core dissidents remain, so why do we need legions of armed men to contain them?

The previous deployment of the ZANU-PF musclemen, especially the political forces, into Matabeleland were directed in the main against the unarmed and defenseless civilian population. Much the same apply to the recent cordon and search operation in the Bulawayo township. In the main their activities have aroused public scorn and anger and the condemnation of the free world. These political units have certainly not distinguished themselves on the field of battle nor can they add new honors to their regimental colors.

There is only one very sickening conclusion. What the prime minister describes as the strongest armed forces in southern Africa are there to prop up the ZANU-PF regime and to ensure that they remain in power. What is more, they are not being paid for from party funds. We, the poor old taxpayers, are having to foot the bill to keep in office the government that most of us did not want in the first place.

Only a new government can restore a sense of balance to the distribution of our financial assets. One of those first priorities will be to tailor the size of our forces to accord with our true needs.

Radio Truth on Anniversary of Nkomati Accord
MB181744 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] This weekend marks the first anniversary of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique. Its short and checkered history has been beset by many storms, and right at this moment, its future hangs precariously in the balance. Why has this peace initiative, which everybody welcomed except the Soviets, reached such a critical stage? Why have the high hopes nurtured at its launching failed to materialize to the degree expected?

In part the answer lies in that statement that the Nkomati was hailed by all except the men in the Kremlin. From the outset, the Russians were determined to (?hush) the accord. Within its terms, they saw a challenge to the supremacy of Soviet influence in Mozambique. The prospects of regional peace and harmony were a major stumbling block to Soviet objectives for the region as a whole. Their agents worked behind the scenes to promote disenchantment within the Frelimo heirarchy concerning the practical application of the accord. Through disinformation, the Soviet propaganda machine spread the rumor that South Africa was not abiding by its part of the bargain. They (?beat up) expectations that were never a part of the original agreement with regard to the containment of Renamo. Mozambique was portrayed as the loser rather than the beneficiary. At the same time, the Russians worked on the Frontline States, already sensitive to any cooperation with Pretoria, and convinced them that the South Africans were not sincere in their expressed desire for peace.

Through PANA, an element in the Soviet-sponsored new world information order, a survey has been conducted to discover what the youth of Africa think about the Nkomati Accord. From such a source, the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

One of the principal causes of Marxist disquiet is that the Nkomati agreement provided the opening for the Western democracies to supply economic aid to Mozambique. In particular, the Russians feared the American involvement and deemed it to be a threat to the global balance of power. The United States' offer of limited military assistance to Mozambique was seen as a direct challenge to the East Bloc domination of this form of aid. Lastly, as we reported to you earlier, a senior Soviet diplomat in Harare in an unguarded moment that his political masters were determined to sabotage the Nkomati Accord. He even had the gall to berate the Frontline States for doing too little in this direction.

We turn now to them in bone of contention, the continued and increasing success of Renamo. It is common knowledge that this resistance movement now controls most of the Mozambique countryside while Frelimo dominance is confined to the principal urban centers. Renamo could not have achieved this level of success without considerable backing from the local population. This confirms that the MNR is an authentic organization with a defined political identity. There seems to be little doubt that the Armed Forces of Mozambique are throughly demoralized and deficient in military skill. As a matter of false pride, Frelimo refuse to admit either the authentic nature of Renamo or the inefficiency of their own troops. So they create a scapegoat. Who better to fulfill that role than the regional whipping boy in Pretoria?

It is all too easy to say that South Africa has not fulfilled her part of the agreement, that she is still responsible for the support flowing to Renamo even though it may not be coming directly from government sources. Not one shred of evidence has ever been produced to back up this claim, but as a political gimmick, it serves its purpose.

Leading members of Frelimo even contradict each other in an effort to cover up thier own shortcomings. In an interview on Lisbon radio, the Mozambican economic affairs minister, Jacinto Veloso, admitted that the Portuguese element of Renamo is the force which has been providing the backing for the movement since the signing of the Nkomati Accord. He also named Malawi, the Comoros Republic, and Islamic countries as being heavily involved. The latter, he said, was a major source of finance for Renamo. During the interview, Mr Veloso maintained that the Portuguese wing included former entrepreneurs, industrialists, and traders. He admitted that the Islamic connection arose from the harassment of Muslim clergy by Frelimo and the desecration of some Muslim places of worship. The Arab nations concerned were also anticommunist and opposed Mozambique's subjection by the Soviet Union.

The real heart of the problem is Frelimo's failure to negotiate with Renamo at the very beginning when the differences could have been more easily resolved. (?It is like) the disease of cancer: If it is nipped in the bud in the early stages with the correct treatment, a permanent cure can be effected. If you fail, the disease will spread throughout the body and will prove to be terminal. Even now at this relatively late stage, treatment is preferable to the attempt of excision by military force. So at this anniversary time, let Frelimo get to grips with reality. They and their collegues in the FLS [expansion unknown] must stop falling for the Soviet propaganda line.

The Nkomati Accord did not specify that South Africa must bring Renamo resistance to an end. This would have been an impossible requirement, for Renamo has a momentum of its own. Pretoria was required to halt any support for the MNR from South African soil and to use their influence to bring about a cease-fire. Any observer with an open mind, whether he likes South Africa or not, must admit in all honesty that the regime has done its best. The Boer, as the saying goes, is firmly in Frelimo's [word indistinct]. They must be prepared to negotiate with Renamo in good faith, something they have steadfastly refused to do up to now.

As Zimbabweans, we hope that the Nkomati Accord is not consigned to the dustbin. As far as we are concerned, anything that curtails Soviet penetration in our region is worthy of preservation. Secondly, any contribution toward peace and stablility is better than a revival of confrontation. Happy anniversary.